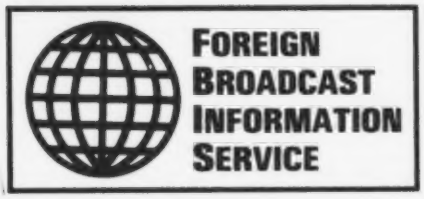

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-040
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FBIS-LAT-88-040 *1 March 1988*

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Christian Democratic Group Supports Delvalle

PA291541 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1442 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Caracas, 27 Feb (DPA)—The Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA) urged the Contadora member countries (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) to withdraw "the representatives of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's government from that group because its presence decreases Contadora's authority to speak for democracy."

In addition, ODCA challenges the Socialist International to adopt "a clear position regarding the actions of Panama's Revolutionary Democratic Party, a member of that group. The PRD is the civilian arm of Gen Noriega's dictatorship." [quotation mark as received]

Similarly, ODCA urges all political parties and democratic forces of this continent, as well as international and regional organizations, to "express solidarity with the Panamanian people in their effort to maintain the constitutional order in the government of Eric Delvalle, a government we initially opposed because it was the result of electoral fraud, but which is undoubtedly a less painful and traumatic path to begin to overcome the crisis and open the path to democracy."

In a communique disseminated by the Caracas press today, ODCA also condemns the "unbelievable position of the Legislative Assembly, with a PRD majority, which has lent itself as an instrument of Gen Noriega," supporting the coup d'etat against President Eric Arturo Delvalle and disregarding Vice President Esquivel.

The document maintained that the appointment of Manuel Solis Palma as the new president creates "a false legitimation of power, thus betraying the Constitution and the people's will."

Andean Countries Agree To Fight Drugs

PA261550 Paris AFP in Spanish 0537 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cuenca, Ecuador, 23 Feb (AFP)—Participants in the sixth Andean meeting of the Cartagena Accord's Council of Foreign Ministers reported here today that Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela will embark on a joint struggle against drug trafficking.

During one of the sessions, Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava and Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedegral demanded action to this effect from their colleagues.

Nava requested the urgent enforcement of the "Rodrigo Lara Bonilla" Andean accord, which was approved in Colombia in memory of the former justice minister assassinated by drug traffickers. This accord aims to tackle "one of the greatest dangers faced by all our countries to a greater or lesser extent," he said.

The Venezuelan foreign minister requested urgent ratification of that accord and proposed Caracas as host for a preparatory meeting to outline the joint action against drug trafficking.

His Bolivian colleague, Guillermo Bedregal, said the involvement of organized crime in drug trafficking "hurts the dignity, morale, and social health of our countries" and that fighting it "is a priority of Andean countries."

Finally, he called for the establishment of a common Andean offensive "to destroy this implacable and fierce adversary" called drug trafficking.

The sources said the accord will be approved tonight at the conclusion of the 2-day meeting.

Cuba

R. Castro Delivers Eulogy at Flavio Bravo Funeral

FL291221 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1132 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] We will never forget your example; farewell, dear Flavio. This was said by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC, in delivering the eulogy for Flavio Bravo Pardo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. Raul recalled Flavio Bravo's long life at the service of the people and gave highlights of his contribution as an exemplary revolutionary. He noted that at the age of only 16, Bravo joined a youth cell of the Communist Party in 1937. A year later, he was the youth leader of the Havana workers' federation. Raul stressed Bravo's accomplishments as leader of the socialist youth and, later, as a member of the Council of State and president of the ANPP.

Raul also spoke of Bravo's work against the tyranny following the 1952 coup d'etat, and he praised his attitude when, already ill, he never showed the slightest sign of fatigue. He waited for death with dignity, Raul said, as it should be when one has lived a good life. Flavio Bravo is one of those men of the revolution, Raul emphasized, whose life is a legacy to the party and the people.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, leader of the state and party, and relatives of the late communist leader attended the funeral at which Flavio Bravo was rendered the same military honors as those accorded to generals who die in battle.

[Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 29 February adds: "Also at Colon Cemetery was Carlos Nunez, president of Nicaragua's National Assembly, who came to our country to attend the funeral."]

Meeting of Bloc Party Officials Opens

F. Castro Hosts Reception

FL291239 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The meeting of Central Committee secretaries in charge of foreign relations of the Communist and workers parties of socialist countries will begin today in Havana. Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, attended a gathering last night in connection with this event. Here are more details from our reporter, Daisy Gomez.

[Begin recording] [Gomez] A friendly meeting was held at the Cubanacan protocol hall with the secretaries for international relations of the Communist and workers parties of the socialist countries. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro greeted the guests and held a lively conversation with them.

[Castro] We are now building many things, cement houses [words indistinct] not enough space. [laughter]

[Speaker in vernacular with simultaneous Spanish translation] You have built many hospitals, scientific centers.

[Castro] We are trying to save cement to see if it lasts longer. But there is a big construction drive. Many in the population participate in this drive. [Passage indistinct] Well, I'm glad, I'm happy to have seen you.

[Gomez] The meeting of secretaries for international relations will take place from 29 February to 3 March at the Palace of Conventions. This is the first time they will meet in a Latin American country. [end recording]

R. Castro Opens Meeting

FL291907 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, made the opening speech today at the meeting of central committee secretaries in charge of foreign relations of the communist and workers parties of the socialist countries. The meeting is being held behind closed doors and will end on 3 March. The conferees will examine foreign policy and other topics of interest for relations among the parties.

Delegations from the GDR, Bulgaria, DPRK, Cuba, CSSR, Hungary, Laos, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, and Vietnam are attending. This is the first time the PCC has hosted this regularly held meeting.

F. Castro Meets Delegates

FL010050 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has chatted with delegates to the meeting of foreign relations secretaries of Communist and workers parties of socialist countries which is underway at the Palace of Conventions.

During a meeting recess, the chief of the Cuban revolution answered several questions posed by the delegates and he referred, among other matters, to the extensive construction movement taking place in the capital and other provinces in Cuba. During the exchange with the delegates, Fidel briefed them on the efforts being made for the rational use of construction materials.

The meeting will continue until 3 March at Havana's Palace of Conventions.

Reportage on UN Human Rights Meeting in Geneva

Valladares Meets With Press

FL261427 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1248 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Telephone report from the "Hot Off the Press" section of the "Morning Magazine" program by Orlando Contreras from Geneva—live]

[Text] A news conference held by Armando Valladares, former Batista policeman, ex-terrorist, and so-called poet, ended just a few minutes ago. The chief of the U.S. delegation to this Human Rights Commission meeting admitted, I repeat, admitted that the State Department's confidential document addressed to all U.S. embassies and consulates shown by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri 2 days ago is authentic, completely authentic. He was not able to deny that that document reflects the official position of the U.S. Administration. That is an important fact since faced with the clear evidence, Valladares had to agree that the document is authentic.

That made it possible for me to ask him, among other things, that since he agreed the document is authentic, if he also agreed with the language used. I told him the document literally says: Cuba and its cohorts hid behind an Indian procedural motion to prevent the anti-Cuban motion from succeeding. I then asked him if he believed that was an appropriate way to refer to sovereign nations and governments that decided to vote against a U.S. initiative. The response was completely evasive. He said: Yes, actually that is not diplomatic language because it is not a diplomatic document; it was not prepared by diplomats. We should remember that that confidential document is signed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. According to Valladares, that is not a diplomatic document. He literally told me: It was not prepared by diplomats. Who prepared it? Perhaps the CIA, maybe the CIA and the State Department prepared it jointly. The truth of the matter is that he dwelled on the fact that it is not a diplomatic document. So the 19 countries that voted against a U.S. anti-Cuban resolution bill last year can be called cohorts that hid behind an Indian procedural motion.

On another matter I can say that Valladares avoided substantial subjects; for example, when an English-speaking journalist asked him why he did not refer to the document presented by Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa which proved his true identity as a former policeman and ex-terrorist, and the campaign staged by the United States to try to make this anti-Cuban motion or resolution bill succeed. In sum, I can say that former terrorist Valladares did not come out very well regarding the essence of the matter. He reiterated—he said it publicly—that the United States is making all possible efforts to make the anti-Cuban motion succeed.

U.S. Proposes Investigation

FL261517 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The United States continues to insist on its anti-Cuban campaign at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Yesterday, the U.S. delegation presented a resolution requiring Cuba to allow officials from the International Red Cross to enter the country and investigate the situation of human rights here.

The document is based on accusations from individuals of Cuban origin who reside in the United States and very small groups manipulated by the U.S. Interest Section in Havana. The text does not make any reference to similar visits made to Cuba by independent personalities from various countries of the world, including the United States.

U.S. Policy Condemned

FL270033 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 88

[By Orlando Contreras from Geneva]

[Text] Cuba spoke at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting today here in Geneva and condemned the U.S. policy of violation [politica violatoria] of the human rights of the Cuban people because of the blockade they have maintained for more than a quarter of a century.

The Cuban delegation presented a draft resolution to the UN commission this afternoon requesting that the 45th session of the commission next year examine the U.S. policy of violating human rights. The resolution mentions several human rights violations committed in the United States, domestically as well as against other peoples and nations.

In reference to this last matter, the Cuban draft resolution requests that the commission require the U.S. Government to refrain from committing acts aimed at destabilizing other states, which is in frank violation of international law.

The draft presented today will be considered and brought to a vote prior to the conclusion of the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on 11 March.

Valladares' Charges Denied

FL291934 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Feb 88

[By Orlando Contreras in Geneva]

[Text] The Cuban mission at the United Nations in Geneva today denied that Brazil had refused to accept Rene Rodriguez, currently president of the ICAP [Cuban

Institute of Friendship With Peoples], as Cuban ambassador to Brazil. The Cuban mission said the best evidence of this would be to ask the Brazilian Government itself about it. Ambassador Carlos Lechuga issued a press release this morning after international media reported statements to that effect made here on Friday by Armando Valladares, head of the American delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission. Lechuga announced that Cuba's permanent mission to the United Nations here in Geneva will this week exhibit Valladares' identification documents as a Batista policeman and other police identification cards of the time, as proof that the metric-decimal system was indeed used to record the height and weight of policemen, something Valladares denied on Friday.

The Cuban ambassador proposed additional proof. He said Valladares' police card has his fingerprints, and if Mr Valladares makes his fingerprints available to the experts they will be able to confirm that they are the same as those of 1957, inasmuch as fingerprints cannot be altered or faked.

Cuban Professor Miguel Alfonso this morning was elected as one of the five Latin American members of the subcommittee for the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities of the UN Human Rights Commission. Observers noted that the Cuban expert obtained 33 votes out of 43, 1 more than (William W. Pert), proposed by the United States and elected to the group along with 5 other experts. In addition to Alfonso, the other Latin American members are specialists from Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, and Costa Rica. The observers were of the opinion that the United States' maneuver to get the St Lucia candidate to unseat Cuba in the subcommittee had failed. He only got 16 votes, less than half obtained by Alfonso.

Right now, draft resolutions concerning South Africa are being voted on. I can tell you beforehand that the United States is voting against the majority of them and abstaining on a few.

U.S. Intensifies Campaign

FL010159 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The United States is currently using all types of pressure and maneuvers to get the approval of an anti-Cuba document at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting. The attacks against the press launched by Armando Valladares, head of the Yankee delegation, are being commented on by all international correspondents covering the meeting, which began on 1 February and will end on 11 March. According to them, the Yankee delegation is attempting to openly silence the views of the mass media, thereby limiting their influence on international public opinion. The U.S. delegation launched several accusations against journalists, especially against a U.S. reporter whom they accuse of having asked four times if the Reagan administration is going to condemn the Nicaraguan contras.

Each time, there are stronger rumors that Washington is combining what someone called the carrot and stick method to ensure votes for the approval of an anti-Cuban document on the meeting's agenda. One of those rumors states that the U.S. delegation went as far as promising some Latin American delegations that the United States would reduce the balance of certain foreign debts if certain governments vote with Washington and against Cuba.

From politicization they have gone to the crudest verbal attacks, said an expert whom to date has attended 11 of these annual conferences.

The fifth week of the UN Human Rights Commission conference began in the midst of an atmosphere that another specialist termed the devil's caldron. We all know who's playing the role of the devil, he said.

'Arafat Envoy Delivers Message to Castro

FL291122 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1105 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] GRANMA reports today that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, on Saturday received (Abbas Saqi), member of the Al-Fatah Central Committee in charge of foreign relations. (Abbas Saqi) delivered a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the commander in chief. The message refers to the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The solidarity of our people, party, and government for the just Palestinian cause was reiterated to the PLO leader at the fraternal meeting. Our people's condemnation and indignation over the Zionist occupiers' criminal repression of the Palestinians were also conveyed to 'Arafat's special envoy.

Vice Foreign Minister Meets Zimbabwe's Mugabe

MB231723 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The president, Comrade Robert Mugabe, today received the Cuban deputy foreign minister, Comrade Giraldo Mazola, in his Munhumutapa offices in Harare. Comrade Mazola conveyed a message from the Cuban leader, Comrade Fidel Castro, congratulating Comrade Mugabe on his 64th birthday.

The Cuban deputy foreign minister told a news conference after his meeting with Comrade Mugabe that the two had reviewed the situation in southern Africa and

the present state of the Nonaligned Movement. He added that they also examined ways in which cooperation between Cuba and Zimbabwe can be increased.

Haiti

Reynald Metayer Departs for United States

PA2900230 Paris AFP in Spanish 0518 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 27 Feb (AFP)—Radio Haiti-Inter, a private radio station, reported that Reynald Metayer, a member of the Haitian opposition who sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy in this capital in July 1987, left this afternoon on a regular flight to Miami (Florida).

On 16 July, Port-au-Prince Police Major Joseph Baguidy, chief of the Criminal Investigations Department, accused Metayer, a member of the Coordination Committee of the Democratic Forces, of being the owner of a car used by people who offered money and gasoline to demonstrators in a street of this capital so they could set fire to some barricades.

According to statements made on that occasion, the demonstrators then surrounded the automobile, broke its windows, and called the police. The Coordination Committee issued a communique denying the charges and complaining that Metayer and four other people were the victims of a police provocation. On 19 February, the new Haitian president, Leslie Manigat, announced he was going to resolve the problem of political refugees in foreign embassies.

One of two people who sought asylum, Bernard Sansaricq, who had been in the Argentine Embassy since August 1987, left Port-au-Prince for the United States on 20 February.

Gives Reasons for Leaving

FL292241 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Eight days after Bernard Sansaricq left for the United States, Reynald Metayer, a member of the Coordination Committee of the Democratic Forces and of the Group of 57, which were the main forces opposing the National Government Council during the violent strikes of July and August of 1987, left Port-au-Prince Saturday for New York on a scheduled American Airlines flight.

Metayer sought asylum in the Mexican Embassy after an incident in the Portail Leogane section of Port-au-Prince on 16 July 1987.

Metayer arrived at Mais Gate Airport at approximately 1430 in a Mexican Embassy vehicle, accompanied by the Mexican ambassador and the consul general. He went into the diplomatic waiting room, to comply with certain formalities.

Wearing sunglasses and a beige suit, Metayer was accompanied by the diplomats, two officers, and an armed civilian. They accompanied him all the way to the door through which he exited to take the plane.

The ambassador and the officers, whose behavior that day was very proper, did not give him much of a chance to talk to the journalists present and to be interviewed. Nevertheless, here is what he did say at Mais Gate Airport:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Metayer, a word for the press?

[Metayer] Well, friend, all I can say is: I'll be back.

[Reporter] You'll be back. What are you leaving on?

[Metayer] On a passport.

[Reporter] Just a passport?

[Metayer] A normal passport.

[Reporter] So, this means you don't consider yourself an exile.

[Metayer] No, not at all. [end recording]

A few friends and relatives came to see Reynald Metayer off at the airport. His mother told us he had lost 30 pounds during the 7 months he spent at the Mexican Embassy and that during those entire, long 7 months, she and his father had seen him only on the eve of his departure.

In New York, where we talked to him by telephone, Metayer said he had chosen to leave the country in order to remove himself from the scene for awhile, and also so he could put some business in order in the United States, where his wife and children have been living for a few months.

Metayer said he was nevertheless going to pursue his political commitment, that he was not abandoning politics.

[Begin recording] [Metayer] Of course, I spoke to the ambassador. I told him that what I did was not asking for amnesty because I knew that [words indistinct] right? Normally, there are things [words indistinct] they will pardon it, you see? I told him that I, of course, would like a normal passport so as to be able to come and go, back and forth, to my country; for them to give me as much security as possible. [Words indistinct] want to leave. After negotiations, during which they gave me to understand certain things, I decided to leave, decided to remove myself from the scene for awhile, so that I can return very soon.

[Reporter] There is talk of amnesty. Is it because of a full amnesty?

[Metayer] No, no. Amnesty was not discussed at all. The only thing they gave me is a passport to [words indistinct] so that I can come and go, back and forth.

[Reporter] You spoke of certain things discussed that made you decide to stay out of Haiti. Will you tell us what was discussed and when?

[Metayer] Well, no. Actually, not much was said. When you take a good look—aside from the business of amnesty that I discussed with them, so that there would be no restrictions in it, so that there would be no question of amnesty at all—what I needed was a passport. You know, with the insecurity there has always been in Haiti... [corrects himself] They told me that since there is indeed insecurity, it would be a good idea for me to want to leave and come back later. This is normal. And in addition to this, the people accompanying me, and also the Haitian authorities, told me they would give me a passport according to normal procedures. I can come back whenever I want and do whatever I want in Haiti.

[Reporter] So it was you who decided it would be a good idea to let things die down before returning?

[Metayer] Yes, [words indistinct] because I have had some business to attend to in the United States for some time now. In addition to this, I must tell you that after they looted my residence and smashed my car, my wife and children fled to the United States, for their protection, for their security. So I decided to come here to see them. But aside from coming here to see how they were doing, I am definitely going to personally contact the other fellows abroad, and we will return to Haiti in a normal way.

[Reporter] How long do you expect to remain out of the country?

[Metayer] Well, after I contact the fellows abroad, I think I will return to Haiti in June or July. I will return to Haiti, and it is very possible I will remain there for good. One never knows what can happen. I might also come and go, back and forth. But as regards participating in political movements in Haiti, forget it—I will definitely still be on the scene. I will not let anything political happen in my country without participating in it.

First of all, I must tell you I am a member of the Coordination Committee of the Democratic Forces, (?which) is a member of the Haitian Movement for the People's Revolution [Mouvman Ayisyen pou Revolisyon Popile]. Nothing will make me abandon these things. The work being done simply must be done.

[Reporter] Reynald Metayer, I saw you when you left the embassy and I saw that you had changed physically. You were darker. You grew a beard, and you even lost weight. What is the basis for this? Is this due to purely psychological problems or...?

[Metayer, interrupting] [Words indistinct] darker?

[Reporter] Yes.

[Metayer] Well, we were in a place where it was a little cold. I had to stay out in the sun at times. I also lost a little weight, because, you must understand, I wasn't at home. But that doesn't mean Reynald Metayer was cut off from everything. I knew about everything that was going on. I don't mean to say that the ambassador approved, or anything like that. I had contacted other people. But over the radio, the media, and so forth, I stayed in touch. Also, there are many other things that happened.

Of course, we were not mistreated in the embassy. On the contrary, the ambassador treated me well, but (?when you are not) at home you inevitably change a little, you know. I spent all that time in the embassy. But I must tell you that before the embassy, I had spent almost 2 months in hiding. And I must tell you that while I was in hiding, in Port-au-Prince, the Army entered where I was, but they didn't recognize me. And I must tell you that all the time I was in hiding, I saw men—I don't mean under Manigat, understand?—I personally saw Army men actually killing people where I was hiding. I also saw that many men in the Army are involved in contraband. Understand?

[Reporter] I see.

[Metayer] Involved in contraband, killing people, selling stuff. But when I say Army men, I don't mean everyone in the Army. There are people in the Army who, while I was in the embassy... [changes thought] I got news of events, you see? I got news, and these guys... [changes thought] There are good men in the Army, too. It is a small, very particular group in the Army that is involved in all the disorder, the bad stuff. [end recording]

But what exactly happened in Portail Leogane on that July morning in 1987?

Reynald Metayer thinks it was a political intrigue, a setup. In an account he gave of the incident, he held the Criminal Investigations Department authorities responsible. Metayer said he wasn't involved in any terrorist activities, contrary to what Major Baguidy had affirmed back then. Metayer sought asylum in the Mexican Embassy after spending 1 month and 22 days in hiding.

[Begin recording] [Metayer] Here is what happened at Portail Leogane. You know I am the coordinator for the Department of the West for the Coordinating Committee of the Democratic Forces. I am also the coordinator for the Haitian Movement for the People's Revolution.

I always have a lot of people in my car—especially during strikes, because I coordinate certain things during the strikes. Now, we don't normally go out there to create disorder! But I coordinated certain things.

On that day, when I got to Portail Leogane, I found a man starting a fire in the middle of the street. He is someone I know very well, and he knows me very well, too. He is a man who was in the Coordinating Committee, and who is still in the Coordinating Committee, but who was also a member of another group, which there is no point in my naming. You understand? I advised him to watch out because the Army was in the streets shooting the people setting fires.

While I myself walked on down a little ways and started talking to a teacher and to another fellow who works for the U.S. Government—I don't need to tell you exactly what part of the U.S. Government he was working for; I don't want to denounce... [corrects himself] I don't want it to be me who fingers him—while I was talking to these people, four men stayed in the car. I myself was some 50 feet away from the car, talking to these people.

I heard the sound of rocks being thrown. When I heard a lot of them being thrown, I saw the men run off. The fellows in the car had been talking to a group of men who had surrounded the car. When they surrounded the car, the men in the car started talking to them. [Words indistinct] rocks being thrown, I saw men running away. I wondered what was going on. I went back to the car. They drowned me in rocks. I got hit all over with rocks. I must have gotten hit by at least 30 or 40 rocks, but not in the head.

I told them I was from the Coordinating Committee, that I was Metayer, and that I was from the Group of 57. [Words indistinct] they were throwing the rocks, and then I heard them say: Communist! We don't need communists! We don't need bums like you! We don't need anyone like you! And then [words indistinct] when they said this to me, I told them: But it's still the Coordinating Committee! And so forth.

When I looked, I saw it was a fellow I recognized, who is in the Criminal Investigations Department. He was in the group of men who were throwing the rocks. (?I got scared) and I ran into a corridor [very narrow alleys that wind through slum housing]. As I did so, one of the guys throwing rocks, when I [words indistinct] to him, hid me inside the corridor. When he hid me, he told me that it was the very Criminal Investigations Department that ordered them to do what they were doing. Then he said: Look at something else. I saw a man entering with a container full of gasoline. He said to me: Fellow, if you had fallen, they would have set you on fire. After he said this to me, he went out, making me go into another house.

When I went into the other house, the people there made me take off my chain from around my neck and take all my stuff off. They shaved off my beard, right then and there. Then they made me stay there until evening. I didn't leave the house until evening. But all this while that I was in the house, I was watching Baguidy lie, saying I was a terrorist, that I wanted to attack (Bichotte), that I wanted to kill a magistrate, that I wanted to hold up banks, that I wanted to do a bunch of things. A bunch of lies!

If I was not in favor of killing Jean-Claude Duvalier, a guy who was the head of a country—and this when we even had inside connections with which to get him already—why would I want to kill (Bichotte) and the magistrate of Carrefour, and so forth? So, then, that means this was something well set up. What is it?

They explained it to me well. They told me all this occurred because I was a person who went on television and on radio, and that every time those idiots tried to carry out propaganda, I thwarted them. Colonel Figaro himself, personally, had said my name was on the list of communists of the Information Department. I asked him, how could that be? He said: Friend, if Jean-Claude had stayed a week longer, you would be dead. So, all these things accumulated.

[Reporter] How did you manage to enter the Mexican Embassy?

[Metayer] Well, after I took to the corridor and they shaved off my beard, I must tell you they took me on a motorcycle to a hiding place. I went to two or three places before arriving at the special hiding place. I cannot reveal to you exactly where I was hidden, because I might need to use the place again someday. I entered the Mexican Embassy after 1 month and 22 days. When I saw that they were operating where I was, and when I saw that many of them were shooting people, were involved in contraband... [changes thought] They even entered the house I was in. They entered the house I was in, but since I was well hidden, they failed to see me.

So, after 1 month and 22 days I decided to seek asylum at an embassy, because I saw that there was really no security at all for me. According to certain contacts I had, with certain members of the Coordinating Committee, they told me that it was preferable for me to get myself somewhere where there was more security. That is how I decided, personally and by myself one morning, to do it, and 1 month and 22 days later [as heard], I entered the Mexican Embassy. [end recording]

Delegation Discusses Toxic Waste in Gonaives

FL262301 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The 13-deputy delegation that arrived in Gonaives Wednesday to investigate the toxic waste matter held a news conference the day before yesterday. Our reporter will give us details of the news conference.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] A 13-member delegation of deputies arrived in Gonaives on 24 February at 1300 to investigate the toxic waste that a group of greedy Haitians in complicity with the "Khian Sea" dumped on the SEDREN [expansion unknown] wharf, approximately 4 km from the town of Gonaives.

The delegation was headed by Anse-a-Veau deputy (Frantz Monde). Other deputies who were part of the delegation were Stephen Moise, Jr, from Gonaives; Dr Guy Theodore, Pignon; Gerald Lefort, Hinche; Joseph Brezault, Coteaux; (Joseph Paul Denis), Port-Salut; Guiteau Jean-Philippe, Arcahaie; Dr Jocelyn Dortelus, Milot, Plaine du Nord; (Jean-Michel Richardson), Jean-Rabel; Serge Beaulieu, Cavaillon; Hughes Brun, Saint-Marc; and Gelair Normil, Estere.

The first person with whom the deputies met was Raymond Latortue, director of the local port. They met with him to compile a file so that the investigation might be successful.

The delegation also went to the SEDREN wharf to see the poisonous garbage for themselves. Many people whose only fatherland is their pockets used [words indistinct] the Sedren wharf in the Gonaives area.

The 13 deputies then held a news conference on this issue at the (?Shougar Night Club).

Local authorities imposed a kind of blackout as soon as the ship left. The conditions for its departure remain a mystery to all.

The news conference was held by the 13 deputies, the prefect, the communal magistrate, and five members of the Federation of Friends of Nature. It began at 1640 and was attended by approximately 150 people.

Gonaives Deputy Stephen Moise, Jr, was the first speaker. He introduced his fellow deputies to the audience and asked everyone present to trust the deputies to work in the interest of the people.

Anse-a-Veau Deputy (Frantz Monde), the head of the delegation, was the next speaker. He expressed the condolences of the entire nation to all the people of Gonaives for the terrible abuse Gonaives has received from greedy Haitians. He also discussed his talks on this matter with prominent Gonaives citizens.

(Monde) said the "Khian Sea" had entered Gonaives on the pretext that it was carrying fertilizer. He also said that the vessel was in complicity with the U.S. Government, which had given it false documents so it could enter port.

After describing all the potential consequences of this waste on the lives of the people of Gonaives, (Monde) said he would inform the Ministries of Health and Mines of this matter. The deputy also promised to contact the Justice Department to find out how the vessel managed to depart despite the fact that the Department of the Public Prosecutor had ordered military authorities to forbid it to leave.

Furthermore, he said, all the sailors' passports were in the hands of the authorities when the ship left. The deputies therefore think that the authorities must have given back the passports and that must be how those people managed to get away, leaving the toxic waste on the SEDREN wharf.

He also spoke of damages paid to Gonaives by the firm that owns the "Khian Sea." He also said he had to see the minister of commerce, who delivered documents with his signature on them which said at the bottom: No need to inspect.

We remind listeners that Mario Celestin was the commerce minister back then.

(Monde) also said that he needed to contact the foreign minister because this problem involved two countries. Concluding, (Monde) invited journalists to ask him questions.

We noticed the deputy seemed to be accusing the U.S. Government more than anything else, but many Haitians are also guilty, and we asked the deputy about this. (Monde) told us that he will sanction the guilty Haitians, whoever they may be, after the results of the investigation are out.

We must also remind listeners that, although they said they are conducting an investigation to identify the guilty parties, in an interview granted to Radio Independence, the local radio station, on 3 February, Prefect Serge Brutus said that if the vessel should depart they would arrest all the guilty parties in Haiti because the guilty parties were here and they knew who they were.

The deputies answered all questions willingly and said that as far as justice is concerned, the Justice Department should do its job.

A press correspondent said that during all this time the toxic waste has been in Haiti, the only thing that has been accomplished is a lot of fancy, literary, affected talking in French, and that no steps have been taken as yet to analyze the waste or to see what can be done to

help the population of Gonaives get out of this horrendous mess. If this had been something affecting some important government official, said the correspondent, appropriate measures would have already been taken.

(Monde) said he thought a sample of the waste had already been sent out for analysis and that the results had been returned while he was here in Gonaives.

Deputy Beaulieu also spoke. He said the present Chamber of Deputies is not bluffing—that they were out to do some serious work.

Another question asked was: Hadn't they asked the authorities in Gonaives how the vessel managed to depart?

[Speaker, in progress] ...all our possibilities. We did everything we were supposed to do. We have already questioned almost everyone you have mentioned. So we are going to take everything we found and talk to you on how the ship got away. We also went to the port administration offices. They told us all about the vessel—I think that is where Mr (Monde) just came from—how long the boat had been in port...

[Reporter, interrupting] Can you tell us what the Haitian authorities told you when you asked them how the boat managed to get away?

[Speaker] They told me they had prohibited it's departure, and one morning they woke up...

[Reporter, interrupting] The representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor told us he had ordered the Haitian Army to guard the boat. Is it that the Army failed to guard the boat?

[Speaker] I can't tell you whether the Army was guarding it or not because I was not present. But I was told that the Department of the Public Prosecutor had forbidden its departure and they woke up one morning to find it gone. So we have taken note of this. In the results of the investigation we will decide [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Salinas Vows To Eliminate Drug Trafficking

PA262057 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Feb 88 p 45A

[Report by EXCELSIOR correspondents E. Olivares, N. Marin, and A. Garza]

[Excerpt] Guadalajara, Jalisco, 17 Feb—Carlos Salinas de Gortari, PRI candidate for president, has categorically warned that there will be no concessions to narcotics trafficking, and eliminating it is a top priority for our national security.

Salinas de Gortari made this statement during a meeting held at the PRI's Center for Political, Economic, and Social Studies on the last day of his campaign in Jalisco. He also urged the prevention of errors made in the past in other parts of the country that have led to indiscriminate growth and encouraged people to live in the cities as the best option for living better.

We must strengthen local governments, he said, so they will be able to meet demands. The local government's limitations are the reasons why people move to the cities. With better organization, he said, rural communities can offer better living conditions, provided they are given adequate support and help.

Decentralization was discussed during the meeting. Salinas de Gortari said decentralization must become a democratic exercise of redistributing wealth and power.

He urged reviewing the growth patterns of each organization in the republic to struggle against the political and economic trends that have led to "the insistence on centralization."

The concentration of decisions and service and the inadequate integration of the rural areas with the city, he said, are contradictions that must be dealt with soon to give new stimulus to national development. "Decentralization is a clear need that has been reiterated."

The former secretary of planning requested recognition for the progress made, but he also demanded that people accept that there is a challenge to do much more. Therefore, decentralization will be guiding all government actions in the coming years.

In order to promote the development of Jalisco, the presidential candidate proposed eight basic points that call for reversing the centralization trend in Guadalajara, improving the quality of living within and outside the area, promoting better means of communication, supporting agricultural activities in order to increase productivity, promoting the development of industry and tourism, improving services, providing more security, and having greater participation in decisions.

The lack of security is a concern for the Jalisco people that was brought up during the 3-day campaign tour through the area's most important municipalities, where the candidate is seeking the peoples' vote for the presidency of Mexico. This concern also played an important role in the candidate's speeches.

In order for democracy to fully carry out its activities, it is indispensable to guarantee security throughout the state, the cities, and the rural areas, and we must continue to fight crime, he emphasized.

Salinas de Gortari said he will have the solidarity and support from all of society, because eliminating narcotics trafficking is a national security goal that deserves top priority. [passage omitted]

Cardenas Criticizes Economy, Policies

PA261335 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Feb 88 pp 1, 19, 32

[Article by Juan Ochoa Vidal; quotation marks as published]

[Text] "The government will be asking for foreign intervention if it does not conduct the electoral process legally," National Democratic Front presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said yesterday. "We have discovered that the elector's credentials of some of our colleagues are being withdrawn. This involves using the judicial police," he added.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas made these statements first before some 500,000 students at the Mexican Autonomous Technological Institute [ITAM] and then during meetings in lower-class neighborhoods in Mexico City.

Cardenas said: "People can no longer fight the current economic conditions. We are entering even more difficult social times, which could lead to violence that will benefit no one, and that, I would say, no Mexican wants." He further added: "The concentration of power and the decisions made outside the Constitution have been closing the door to participation and democratic expression... Cardenas explained: "The destabilization exists in the government and in the economic policy it has implemented, in the policy it may implement in this electoral process, and in the decisions it could make."

He compared the current national situation to the situations experienced in the Philippines and Haiti. "I do not see a significant difference... our situation is as serious as theirs," he maintained.

"If the results of the elections are altered, this will undoubtedly endanger the country's integrity," Cardenas added.

He reiterated: "The government will undoubtedly be responsible for whatever occurs, because the government has the power to defend and impose the law."

During the interview, Cardenas was asked to specify what kind of foreign intervention could occur if, as he stated, the 6 July elections turn out to be illegal. He was also asked under what terms could this occur.

"Intervention simply occurs. The United States (Ronald Reagan) intervenes; there is no need to call it. No one called it in Nicaragua, and there it is; it is also in the Phillipines... That is the risk," Cardenas said.

Yesterday the presidential candidate began his activities in Mexico City with a conference at the ITAM, where he outlined the history of the PRI's Democratization Trend, his expulsion from the party, and the organization of the National Democratic Front, composed of 14 national and regional political groups.

Cardenas said people will not tolerate electoral fraud.

"We have more people on this side; only empty structures remain on the other side," he said during a meeting in Anahuac neighborhood that some 300 people attended. "We are preparing to defend our position, and no one or nothing will take it away from us," he added.

Cardenas stated: "We are facing many and very large difficulties, because those defending interests contrary to the people's interests are very powerful. They also possess and use many resources, including public funds to pay for the campaign of the government's presidential candidate. They also place difficulties and hindrances to the opposition political campaign.

Cardenas added: "We are proposing a path completely different from the path to which this government has led us. We disagree with the recently implemented policies that have resulted in lower salaries insufficient to meet people's daily needs.

During the Anahuac neighborhood meeting, Cardenas said: "We disagree with a policy that, instead of helping create new jobs and promote industries, services, agriculture, and fisheries, is halting production and thus increasing unemployment and eliminating many opportunities for young people, women, and men who need a job.

"We also disagree with increasing prices of main staples on a daily basis. This makes us realize each day the efforts a family must make... Originally, only the heads of households had to go out and work; then the wives had to do so; and, finally, children now have to go out and work. In many cases, minors have also been forced to work in order to meet family needs." Cuauhtemoc Cardenas blamed the government for "decreasing the value of salaries and increasing prices and because, as technicians say, there seems to be no end to this inflation and no hope for changing the current situation."

Cardenas reiterated this during his meetings with the residents of the Lomas de Sotelo and Argentina neighborhoods as well as in a rally in the square in front of the Tacuba metro station.

Cardenas criticized the fact that "this government increasingly allocates fewer resources to programs for social improvement, education, and new markets. There are increasingly fewer programs to build athletic fields, parks, and gardens."

"Even worse, in our capital there are many areas and neighborhoods that lack the most essential services and have no possibility of improvement."

"We have seen," Cardenas said, "that in the past the people were beginning to have access to housing programs. They could obtain credit, although with difficulty, to improve their housing or to buy homes. Now this possibility has been practically eliminated for the really poor classes.

The presidential candidate also said that "the causes of the problems are currently not being attacked," and he added that "in 5 years we have not only not grown, but retrogressed."

Cardenas ended his 3 days of activities in the Federal District with a party in Tacubaya. This afternoon, he and his supporters will join the march against the Solidarity Pact. It will begin at 1600 and go from the Monument to the Revolution to Zocalo.

He will be in Oaxaca from Friday to Sunday.

Briefs

Money Supply Expands

The Bank of Mexico reported that the money supply, or M1, continued its upward trend in January, increasing to 125.3 percent over the preceding 12-month period. It stood at 5.301 trillion pesos in January 1987; thus the 125.3-percent increase puts it at 11.943 trillion pesos in January 1988. The financial system attracted a net 3.2 trillion pesos during January. Deposits in commercial banks during January were down 802.4 billion pesos, while investments in government treasury certificates increased by 4.01 trillion pesos. The inflation rate in January was 176.9 percent. [Summary] *[Mexico City THE NEWS in English 23 Feb 88 pp 1, 10 PA]*

El Salvador

Rivera y Damas, Rebels on Panamanian Situation

Archbishop Praises Church

PA292119 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1806 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Feb (DPA)—Salvadoran Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas today said during his homily that he prays the situation in Panama does not worsen, and he praised the effort exerted by the church in this concern.

The archbishop issued some statements to the news media after mass, saying he has not been able to talk with his Panamanian counterpart, Msgr Marcos McGrath, but he has learned about the bishops' support of a constitutional regime.

Rivera y Damas said the situation in Panama, which resulted in President Eric Arturo Delvalle's removal after he had dismissed Defense Forces Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega, is also affected by U.S. pressure. However, the church does not analyze the problem from that view.

Rivera y Damas also said the situation in Panama affects all Central America because of its economic stability; a weakening of that stability would have repercussions in the region, not to mention Panama's privileged position concerning the canal.

Furthermore, Rivera y Damas said the Salvadoran Church and the Nicaraguan Church do not have a passive role in the dialogue processes to seek a political, rational, and human solution to the wars being withstood by those countries.

The archbishop said his activity in the government-guerrilla dialogue in El Salvador can be proved by the constant meetings held in Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and even San Salvador that have led to specific results and pledges pending approval.

Venceremos Raps U.S.

PA282244 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] On 27 February, Panama City awoke to a tense calm after the events that took place on 25 and 26 February, when the National Legislative Assembly removed Eric Delvalle from the Presidency. On 26 February, the National Assembly appointed former Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma as the new president of the Republic. He is a well-known Torrijist activist.

Reports from Panama City state that General Manuel Noriega continues in his post commanding the Panamanian Armed Forces with the support of the top Army officers and bases.

The oligarchy, grouped in the so-called Civic Crusade, which is the equivalent of the Salvadoran Pro-Peace and Work Crusade, was frightened, and the announced street demonstrations were not carried out.

On 27 February, U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci did not rule out the possibility of U.S. military intervention in Panama. Gen Manuel Noriega stated the Panamanian Army will defend the country's sovereignty from U.S. aggression.

The Central American revolutionaries said if the United States intervenes in Panama, the war will extend throughout Central America.

For a few months, and with the subservient collaboration of the Panamanian Christian Democracy, the United States has been trying to destabilize Panama to hinder the efforts of the Contadora Group, of which Panama is a member, and to annul the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Guatemala

URNG Announces Cease-Fire Proposal

PA291855 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1954 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Hamburg, 28 Feb (DPA)—The URNG announced today in Hamburg, on the eve of the "San Jose IV" meeting between the EEC, Central American, and Contadora Group foreign ministers, that it had issued a cease-fire proposal to Vinicio Cerezo's government.

URNG representative Francisco Mendizabal said the Guatemalan guerrillas have proposed a halt in the fight against the Armed Forces for the first time in 27 years. Mendizabal said in statements to DPA that the proposal sought to "humanize" the war in Guatemala by enforcing the Geneva Convention and creating demilitarized zones in the countryside.

Mendizabal issued an appeal to the EEC, asking it to demand respect for human rights as a condition for granting financial aid to Central American countries. He emphasized: "The aid should not help strengthen military projects."

Since a meeting in October 1987 between the URNG and Guatemalan Government in Madrid, no progress has been achieved in the Guatemalan peace process. "Cerezo did not implement the Esquipulas II agreement," the guerrilla representative asserted. He emphasized that the Armed Forces launched the largest antirebel offensive in the last 5 years following the talks in Madrid.

Mendizabal issued an appeal to the EEC foreign ministers to support a recently issued European Parliament resolution that asks that Esquipulas II democratization and verification processes be simultaneously implemented, but with neither subject to the fulfillment of the other.

New Military Clandestine Group Emerges

PA010015 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1838 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A new clandestine organization, allegedly made up of Army officers, emerged in this capital today and has given President Vinicio Cerezo a 30-day deadline to dismiss "all the ministers of state."

In a communique sent to the media, the self-styled Patriotic Officers of the Guatemalan Army [Oficiales Patrioticos del Ejercito de Guatemala—OPEG] demands that the Christian Democratic leader effect a total change in the government.

Last year, the self-styled Mountain Officers [Oficiales de la Montana] clandestine group was formed, which the Army assured was not made up of any Army members.

The source said that "it was a plot schemed by political groups trying to confuse the public, to make people believe that division exists in the military."

In the document, the new OPEG organization says that "within 30 days, the president and the commander general of the Guatemalan Army must take the "urgent" and "necessary" measures to lead the country toward a "true democracy". [Quotation marks as received]

The group demands "the changing of all the ministers of state, including the national defense minister," General Hector Alejandro Gramajo.

The group also demands the "elimination of unnecessary expenses and a 40-percent reduction of the state budget," which the congress has established at 3 billion quetzals (equivalent to $1.2 billion) for 1988.

The presumably military clandestine group also requests the "control and decrease of the prices of popularly consumed products and medicines, and the elimination of the development councils and of the Urban and Rural Development Ministry."

Another demand is for the "end of government control over the Military Social Security Institute (IPM)" and "the expulsion of all intelligence elements of enemy countries that are currently in our country as advisers for the president, the ministries, and other organizations."

Finally, the group demands the expulsion of "foreign correspondents" and "respect for and following of the commands of the Human Rights Attorney General's Office."

Army spokesman Colonel Roberto Letona said that "there are no Army officials taking part in the alleged clandestine organization," and that the communique is a false document "designed to confuse the people."

Nicaragua

Obando y Bravo Responds to Ortega Letter

PA292200 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Letter from Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to President Daniel Ortega; dated Managua, 25 February—read by Msgr Bismark Carballo during mass at the San Miguel Archangel Church]

[Text] Managua, 25 February 1988, Your Excellency Mr President of the Republic Commander Daniel Ortega

Excellency:

I acknowledge receipt of your 23 February letter regarding the cease-fire talks and my services as mediator. I regret to express to your excellency that your letter does not reflect the true events that took place during the Guatemalan meetings.

Regarding time spent by the mediator in bilateral meetings with each commission, your excellency stated we spent 40 minutes in two bilateral meetings between the mediator and the government; in reality, we held 3 meetings lasting 63 minutes. Your excellency stated that 75 minutes were spent in two bilateral meetings with the Nicaraguan Resistance; when in reality, they only took 55 minutes. Finally, your excellency mentioned 3 hours and 10 minutes for two joint meetings with both delegations; we held three meetings lasting 3 hours and 33 minutes. Your excellency's statements regarding time spent in mediation seemed to imply lack of interest on our part. The time spent for those meetings was necessary and [word indistinct] by each commission. In addition, I would like to note that the government's commission held three meetings with the mediator, and the Resistance only required two meetings.

Regarding the pace of work at these meetings, we would have advanced much more if the mediator's pace was maintained. However, the government's commission interrupted work several times to make telephone consultations with your excellency. Because of this, in our previous communique we requested that the negotiating commissions have sufficient decisionmaking power to resolve problems presented in these negotiations.

It is also not true, as your excellency stated, that the round of negotiations was abruptly interrupted without consulting either delegation. At the joint meeting held on 19 February, the first draft of the communique was read, and the Resistance's delegation approved it; the government's delegation asked for a 3 and 1/2 hour period for consultations.

Regarding your excellency's implications that the mediator was not diligent in making the proposed agenda proposal advance, I must inform you that when I presented my 18 February proposal, the joint meeting had to be suspended because the government did not accept it in principle. We started the 19 February meeting late because the government commission arrived late, and the head of the delegation, Dr Tinoco, expressed then that the government did not want the mediator's proposal discussed. At a later date, reliable sources informed us that you personally took steps to pressure me into retiring.

In your excellency's letter, I must emphatically reject all those considerations and inuendos that subtly suggest lack of interest or lack of sensibility for the ravages of civil war. I must remind your excellency that since 22 April 1984, in a Nicaraguan bishops's pastoral letter, we proposed that the national problems and the war among brothers be resolved through reconciliation and dialogue. It was a Christian proposal that was strongly attacked by sectors within your government and by yourself. Furthermore, we have repeatedly insisted on our proposal in the Catholic Church's main official documents, such as in our 6 April 1986 pastoral letter and the 8 September 1987 Marian year letter.

In conclusion, we want to ask if the letter sent by your excellency is a rejection in principle of my 18 February proposal to both delegations, which was belatedly accepted by your delegation in Guatemala? If it is a rejection, we must reinitiate work with a great deal of time and Nicaraguan lives lost. If, on the contrary, the case is that talks can continue based on the acceptance of my last proposal as mediator, I propose that the next meeting's agenda be as follows:

1. Date in which the Nicaraguan Government will give total and unconditional amnesty to all political and related prisoners. Procedures to be followed and organizations that will verify same.

2. Date in which your government will complete the unrestricted freedom of expression and organization that will verify same.

3. Date in which your government will attend the opposition parties' requests to renew the dialogue to allow the Nicaraguan democratization process.

4. Date in which your government, maintaining a dialogue with opposition parties, will proceed to revise the military service law to enable the total pacification and reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family.

5. Number, location, and extension of the enclaves and the date when the Resistance must begin to enter said enclaves. Guarantees for the forces during this truce and procedures to be followed during the cease-fire period.

6. The meeting will be held in Guatemala City 9-11 March 1988. The work will begin at 0900 on 10 March

Presenting my respects to your excellency and awaiting your kind response, in writing and as soon as possible, I pray the Lord enlightens your excellency so you make wise decisions in these important moments of Nicaraguan history. [Signed] Cardinal Manuel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua

Ortega Views Peace Process at Dental Convention
PA010110 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0236 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the inauguration of the 22d Congress of the Federation of Odontologists of Central America and Panama at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Setting aside stances that divided us, we, the Central American presidents, grew close to those attitudes that united us. We managed to sign a peace plan on 7 August 1987, in Esquipulas, Guatemala.[as heard] Later in Guatemala City, we met again and began new [word indistinct] for peace. On 15 and 16 January, we had another meeting in Costa Rica. There, we reaffirmed the commitment to continue striving for peace. It is very important to repeat this to all those interested in peace and those who are actively participating in the peace effort. In other words, we must repeat this to the Central American presidents and governments. We must repeat this to the political parties from the different Central American sectors interested in peace. Regarding the specific case of Nicaragua, where we are striving for a cease-fire, we must repeat this to those who are participating in the cease-fire effort. In other words, the Nicaraguan Government has to remind them of this. The Nicaraguan Government has to remind the U.S. Government and its representatives—the contra (?chieftains)—of this. We must remind the person whom the Nicaraguan Government has asked to serve as mediator, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

What must we remind them about? We must remind them that when we met in Costa Rica 15-16 January, we issued a document clearly stating that the agreement we signed on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala is still in effect. This means it has not undergone major changes. We clearly said which points of the document have been accepted. However, regarding the cease-fire, we were very clear, once again reaffirming the reasons for the

cease-fire. We were also very clear regarding the political dialogue, stating our commitment to implement all those agreements. All [the Central American presidents] stated their commitment to implement those agreements. The creation of the mechanism for verification was left pending to ensure compliance with all those agreements.

Based on the agreement we signed again in Costa Rica, which was merely to reaffirm the 7 August agreement, we decided to immediately strive for a cease-fire. In the last meeting held in Guatemala, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who was acting as mediator, introduced a proposal: an agenda for a cease-fire.

His proposal was accepted by the Nicaraguan Government and by the U.S. Government's representatives. This proposal was the basis on which cease-fire discussions were to be initiated. If a cease-fire is attained, we will avoid the daily deaths of Nicaraguans. However, a new proposal was later presented; it brought about disagreements, and the meeting was suspended.

We believe and have so expressed to Cardinal Obando y Bravo in a letter I sent him on 26 February, that we should reconsider his proposal—the one presented by him and accepted by the government and the contras—because there we have points we both agree on. We have to start working on the points we both agree on, especially when we are dealing with such a complex problem as a cease-fire. To adhere to this proposal does not mean any sort of regression, because one regresses only when one has already advanced. If you have advanced a bit and then take a step backwards, that is regressing. However, when nothing has been advanced, and we have insisted on the need to advance, it cannot be said there is regression. The Nicaraguan Government's insistence on initiating discussions on the proposal presented by the cardinal at the Guatemalan meeting cannot be considered regression. We are not defending the Nicaraguan proposal; we are defending the proposal made by the cardinal in Guatemala and want to initiate discussions on it.

I have been told that he stated today that discussing this proposal would mean regressing. This is totally contrary to this very basic explanation of what regressing means. We cannot talk about regressing, because we have not even taken one step. If we have not taken a step, how can we talk about regressing? We have to insist on taking a step. But how are we going to take this step? How are we going to take the step if we have to go forward on a very narrow road. We have to agree. The Nicaraguan Government can propose to enter this narrow road. The counterrevolution can make its proposal to enter this narrow road. This road will later take us a few steps further toward peace. However, these proposals could be questioned. It could be said that the Nicaraguan Government is defending its interests and wants to set a trap for the counterrevolution in order to liquidate it; or it could be said that the counterrevolution, the U.S. Government, has its own interests and wants to set a trap to finish the peace process.

The first step had to be taken, so I told the cardinal he should propose the agenda for the 18 February meeting in Guatemala City, and the cardinal presented the agenda. This is what he did: He took the agenda presented by the government and the agenda presented by the counterrevolution, extracted the points he considered coincided the most, and said: This is the agenda I propose. We said: All right, we believe the cardinal has taken the points that coincide the most. Therefore, we had the agenda to begin the discussions. The U.S. Government's delegation also said it accepted the agenda presented by the cardinal. This agenda is like the starting point of a narrow path, and we will broaden the path until it leads us to the achievement of peace, which is our main goal.

The drawback is that another proposal—including elements that oppose what we had agreed upon—was suddenly presented after the cardinal's proposal was presented and accepted by the government and the counterrevolution. That second proposal is like a loud noise that immediately disrupts the preparations for a dialogue. In other words, the dialogue was being prepared and organized in a harmonious way, and suddenly we hear the mercenaries' thunder. This sets back the process; this could even void the process! We must set aside what causes enmity and disputes. Our starting point must be the agenda that the cardinal prepared and presented, because it includes the points of coincidence he found in the agendas presented by the Nicaraguan Government and the counterrevolution's delegation on the cease-fire. [passage omitted]

The law is clearly on Nicaragua's side. This is not simply a case of taking Nicaragua's word for it, because Nicaragua presented its case to the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. Nicaragua went to the ICJ and said it was being attacked by the United States. The United States, which has used the ICJ many times, had the opportunity to present all the necessary evidence to prove that Nicaragua was a threat. However, the ICJ issued a ruling condemning the United States. Unfortunately, the United States still does not believe it is necessary to seek a peaceful solution in the Central American region. Some sectors still believe the United States should continue its warmongering and aggressive policy.

The U.S. Congress is still debating whether or not it should approve funds to continue the aggression against Nicaragua. This shows disrespect for the ICJ's ruling; in other words, disrespect for international legal norms and U.S. laws. You can ascertain that the U.S. Constitution clearly forbids these types of actions; therefore, it is clear the U.S. Constitution is being violated, because Nicaragua is being attacked and the ICJ ruling is not respected. That is why the signing of the Guatemala agreements is so important, and why it is so important to ratify the

15-16 February agreement in Costa Rica. This would clearly show the willingness to attain the Central American countries' self- determination and independence.

The Nicaraguan people will continue to struggle, and we hope the other Central American countries and governments will also continue to struggle for the implementation of the agreements we signed on 7 August. Those agreements have given a new opportunity to Central America and bolstered the people's expectations. Those agreements have given us hope, and the Central American presidents cannot betray those agreements. [passage omitted]

Ortega Congratulates Panama's Solis Palma

PA292110 Paris AFP in Spanish 1555 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Managua, 29 Feb (AFP)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega this weekend sent a message congratulating Manuel Solis Palma, the new Panamanian chief of government.

The text of the message was disclosed today in Managua. In the message, Ortega says his government is sure the appointment of Solis Palma "is a firm step in surpassing the current situation in Panama that has been provoked by an interventionist policy of a country (United States) that wants to become a judge of our sovereign republics." Ortega adds that "the firm attitude of the Panamanian people in rejecting this interventionist policy is an example for all the peoples who are struggling for their sovereignty and independence."

Following last Thursday's events that culminated with the dismissal of President Eric Delvalle, who had ordered the dismissal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Sandinist Government voiced its "militant and combative solidarity" with the chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

Nicaragua is one of the few Latin American countries that have directly recognized the new Panamanian chief of state, who was the education minister up to last Friday.

Borge Praises National Directorate at Rally

PA291402 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Speech by Tomas Borge Martinez, interior minister and commander of the revolution, at a rally to commemorate the death of Commander Camilo Ortega and the Monimbo insurrection, at the Plaza de la Revolution in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I ask myself: Why do people gather here? Could it be to support the work they created with their hands, hardened by historical foresight and sacrifice? Could it be that they meet out of conscience, discipline, love for the fatherland, or revolutionary fervor? Of course, we have no doubt that the people meet out of revolutionary fervor, love for the fatherland, historical foresight, and because they need to defend the work they did with their hands. However, the Nicaraguan people also gather at their leaders' call because they have questions and they want answers. They gather because they trust the hands that are holding the compass and the torch, because they trust their National Directorate.

The Nicaraguan people trust the National Directorate because the National Directorate trusts the people. [crowd chants: "National Directorate, give us your orders!"] Of course, I am not talking about a National Directorate as a party line, but as an historical project that is irrevocable and irreversible. I am talking about a project that goes beyond the limits of a government administration, with its successes and its failures. I am talking about a project that goes beyond the limits of a political party. The FSLN is something more complex than a plan, a chart, and a structure. The FSLN is the result of a multitude of things. It is the answer to an historical question.

The FSLN National Directorate's strength lies in its undissolvable unity. It is a unity that we hope will become an example to all Latin American revolutionaries. We have created a paradigm of unity in order for this unity to not simply be an isolated incident, but an example for the peoples who are struggling for their liberation. We have created a National Directorate that is collective, firmly attached to its principles. It is a National Directorate that is persistently seeking the truth through a diversity of criteria. These are criteria that are given within the framework of a single ideological, political, and strategic concept.

I am saying all this because some are harboring the false hope that one day we will become divided. They want us to make the mistake of delivering the people's victories to the people's enemies on a silver platter.

Our people and our enemies must know that if there is a moment in the FSLN's and the revolution's development when we are most deeply united around our principles, it is now. [applause]

We have created a National Directorate that has been accurate when it has had to give the right answer. It has done the right thing at the right time. It has done right in recognizing mistakes when criticism is not meant to be a treacherous knife and when self-criticism does not become a masochistic cop-out or an act of hypocrisy.

It is the people who will, in the end, judge each of the revolution's actions. We could care less, after all, and it is not that we are not interested but that, ultimately, it is unimportant that the U.S. Congress tries to judge the revolution's actions—because we Nicaraguans have been making our own decisions since 19 July 1979, and we will continue to make our own decisions in the future. [applause]

These decisions include the recent measures referred to. These are measures that are a [word indistinct] response within the context of a great, historical response.

As is known—and I will try to explain in the simplest way possible certain mattters the people must clearly understand with their natural intelligence, which is great and is historically recognized—we have tried to implement corrective actions for an economic crisis with origins that are very well known to all.

I will not speak of the background of this crisis, the foreign debt, the unequal exchange or of any of that, because our people know quite well all the factors that caused the crisis and the economic inheritance we received. This crisis is of a prolonged but decisive nature, and the decisions made were also decisive, although they involved an abrupt turn in the country's policy and economy. I honestly believe the logic of the measures implemented by the government are in line with the people's hopes and expectations. Otherwise, it would be impossible to explain the masses' support.

It would be impossible to explain the special energy the masses have used to guarantee compliance with the economic measures. It is admirable how each of the political groups and the administration's agencies did what had to be done. It is admirable how the people went into motion once again and how they became a movement of braced hands and muscles. The vibration, the serenity, the self-confidence, the instinct, the clarity, and the courage with which the workers defend their power—in other words, defend their role as protagonists of this revolutionary process—are admirable. Admirable also is the capacity that the people sometimes have to understand the most complex economic matters. The people's participation in all aspects of the revolutionary struggle is just as admirable. [passage omitted]

However, after this whole diatribe on economic matters, I ask myself: is it possible to reach all the goals proposed without the people's organized participation? Can it be possible for the monetary law, the state austerity plan, and all the other measures to work without the people's participation? [crowd shouts: "No!"] In this task, the government cannot do without the people. The FSLN cannot do without the people. The leaders and the people must be very clear on this, although the FSLN has the historical obligation to lead the people in the fight for the defense of this and other decisions prompted by the revolution.

The big and small merchants, the grocery store owners, the market vendors, the street vendors, and the transportation workers are not criminals. They have the full right to carry out their activities within the law. It is not a crime to be a street vendor, transportation worker, market vendor or grocery store owner.

I recently said in Leon that I am proud to have been the son of a market vendor. My mother was an honest woman. She was not a thief. It is not a crime to be a market vendor. However, it is a crime to be a price gouger, a thief, or to steal from the people. [applause] What does it mean to be a price gouger? It is important to know what it means so the government will not persecute those who are not price gougers and will not fail to take measures against those who are.

The people's and the state's administrative decisions must be directed against the price gougers. Therefore I ask: What does it mean to be a price gouger? A price gouger doubles prices artificially. He makes exaggerated profits, either by selling or buying merchandise. He [word indistinct] the economic crisis and hurts the consumers. He promotes social instability and places his selfish interests above social interests. To speculate is to take advantage of the scarcity in the supply and demand; it is to manipulate supply and demand to make profits; it is to steal; it is to be a criminal. It is, in essence, to be a counterrevolutionary, because they attack the essence of the revolution.

We who have been so generous with everything in the past have not fully applied the law against these price gougers, these criminals. I want to remind police chiefs here and the relevant offices that the price gougers, in accordance with the law on the maintenance of public order, deserve from 3 to 4 years in jail. [applause] It is still a conservative sentence, because there are places in the world where they are shot. [applause]

I am not saying, of course, that we must take extreme measures. Let no one distort what I have said and let no one say I am sentencing price gougers to death, because the people must maintain the law and not commit arbitrary actions. The people must fight, not so abuses are committed, but to stop abuses. They must fight to ensure that arbitrary actions are not taken. The Nicaraguan people must fight to enforce the law, and if the law says the sentence should be 3 to 4 years for price gougers, then they should serve 3 to 4 years, according to the crime, and no more. [passage omitted]

When we talk about democracy, if we do not want to talk trash, we must talk about a majority. The people are the only makers of a true democracy. There can be no democracy without a majority supporting it. There is so much said about democracy—even Pinochet talks about democracy, even Somoza talked about democracy, even the democratic dictator of Paraguay talks about democracy every day from the time he wakes until the he goes to bed. However, to talk about democracy, one must speak of a majority; to talk about democracy, one must speak of revolutionary peoples; to talk about democracy in this country, one must speak of the FSLN. [applause, indistinct slogans]

In addition, it is said we are enemies of democracy. We are being accused; I am not saying we are being pointed at; I said we are being accused for enforcing the law. It is historically recognized that every nation has the right to defend itself, just as any nation has the right to rebel, that is an historical principle. If the Nicaraguan people have the right to rebel, why don't they rebel against the revolutionary government since they have rifles given to them by the revolution? How easy it would be for the Nicaraguan people to claim the right to rebel and aim their rifles at those who gave them those rifles. But do you know what is happening? Let them [not further identified] worry, because there can be another insurrection here, but not against the revolutionary government or the FSLN, but against the enemies of the government and the revolution. [applause]

Under the Esquipulas agreements, the war caused by the merchandise of death sent by the U.S. Government continues. [sentence as heard] The confrontation of the monetary reform with the so-called private sector and the rightist political groups, as well as the on again off again national dialogue the FSLN wants, characterize what may be referred to as the internal aspect, which completes the extremely complex picture of the current situation. Our enemies are trying, at any expense, using dirty weapons, to form with external forces—referred to as counterrevolutionaries—and with internal forces—referred to as the opposition—a single fighting front capable of eliminating the revolutionary process.

All forces must unite in the political struggle. However, it is unacceptable to permit the unification of the military forces armed by the United States and the so-called civic forces. This unification is not a unity of opponents but an identity [identidad] that does not make the counterrevolutionaries legal but, instead, leads those who become their accomplices or allies to break the law. This explains why those who want a single front of death against the revolution question and even defy the law. They defy the democratic authority and common laws. The confirmation of our policy in favor of true negotiations has been to appoint Major General Joaquin Cuadra as the head of our delegation. The confirmation of our policy in favor of true negotiations has been our calm response to any suggestion.

However, it seems that this calm and this appointment have not been appreciated or understood. Now that the pretext that a higher-level delegation was needed is no longer valid, what new obstacles are they planning, I ask. What will be the new pretexts? They now claim that our delegation's level is still not enough. Unfortunately, the problem is that the counterrevolutionaries do not act alone. Unfortunately, they are a satellite. We have been accused of being a satellite, a satellite of Cuba, which in turn is a satellite of the Soviet Union; in other words, they claim we are a satellite of another satellite. However, we truly make our own decisions, and we do not ask anyone anything, regardless of how good friends or brothers they are. But they are true satellites. They do not make their own decisions. Have you ever watched a ventriloquist and the dummies they handle? Imperialism is the ventriloquist and they [the contras] are the dummies.

The cease-fire must be faced with complete responsibility. We cannot play with the cease-fire negotiations, just as we cannot play with political negotiations. We proposed political negotiations with the unarmed opposition forces, as specified in the Esquipulas agreements. We proposed the cease-fire talks with the counterrevolution's armed forces, just as the Esquipulas agreements demand. One cannot treat lightly the national dialogue or the cease-fire talks. The Sandinists complied with the Esquipulas agreements. However, it seems certain national and international political sectors have lost their memory. Must it must be recalled who opposed the Esquipulas agreements from the beginning? Was it Reagan, or have they forgotten? However, there are some who have the mind of a donkey; a donkey never forgets where it eats, and that is the only virtue of the enemies of the revolution, the counterrevolutionaries. They eat at the expense of U.S. taxpayers, and they always go back to eat from the hands of the master who fills them up. [applause]

It was clear that the Esquipulas opening meant an increase in the political struggle. Our objective is to exchange bullets for ideas. However, an effort is being made to convert the political opening into a heap of manure. Either the logic of the aggression has several facets, or the reasoning of the U.S. strategists is that the effects of the war hurt the Nicaraguan economy and the scarcity must become the detonator. They want to use that situation to create [word indistinct] and exasperating situations. They even want to force us to apply excessive repression, to negate democracy, or perhaps they mean to create a democracy, because the democracies we know of in Latin America, the democracy we knew here in Nicaragua—including some famous democracies—involved heads getting hit, people getting sprayed with water, tear gas being hurled, and demonstrators getting shot. This is something that has not happened in Nicaragua, except for the shots fired against the Sandinists during Somozist times and the shots fired by the Somozists in Masaya a few years ago after the victory and also aimed at the Sandinists.

CPT Trade Unions Oppose Monetary Reforms

PA261555 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Four trade unions grouped in the Permanent Workers' Congress [Congreso Permanente de los Trabajadores—CPT], [two acronyms indistinct], CTN [Nicaraguan Workers Federation], and CTGI [General Confederation of Independent Workers], yesterday expressed their opposition to the so-called monetary reforms, because they consider them to be of no value, especially where salary adjustment is concerned. The prices of basic staples do not meet the Nicaraguans' basic

needs. Electrical appliances have been priced way beyond many workers' means. Businesses will obviously have to be closed down. This is not the right policy to follow. Incentives have been eliminated, say the leaders of the CPT. Likewise, demagogy and cynicism continue on the part of those who intend to take over the working class gains won over the years. We condemn the authorized groups known as divine mobs, which in Nazi-style gangs frighten the population into obeying the regime's instructions. But we will continue fighting to eliminate the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System] once and for all. The government's policy is against the worker. We advocate the resumption of a national dialogue as a civic solution to the crisis that is oppressing the country. The Nicaraguan workers' statement adds that Nicaragua is not the patrimony of any one political party. Nicaragua belongs to the Nicaraguans. The workers' federations' document ends with a demand to stop repression now.

Panama

Solis Palma Speaks at San Miguelito Rally

PA010430 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0307 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Speech by "President" Manuel Solis Palma at a rally in Soberano dance hall in San Miguelito District, near Panama City—live]

[Text] Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega, Latin American leader and Panama's idol; [applause, chanting] Honorable Legislator Luis Gomez; San Miguelito Mayor Balbina de Perinan; National Lottery Manager Ana Villa de Flores; and others at the main table; ladies and gentlemen:

Commander, you have heard it; this is militancy. Here there is militancy, there is soul, there is feeling, because the Panamanian people, the very roots of our people, only know about loyalty, feeling, and humanity. They know how to love and give of themselves. They do not know how to betray. [applause]

I feel happy and moved when I see this multitude of Panamanian people. Each person is moved by what he loves and feels. I do not get moved at the Union Club [private social club]. [applause, chanting]

A few days ago, a Colombian reporter insistently asked me where is democracy in Panama? He asked me what is happening to the democracy in Panama? With all the due respect and esteem I have for the Colombian Government and people, Panamanian democracy can teach Colombia what it cannot teach us. In Panama, elections are carried out with 70 or 80 percent of the country's voters, while in Colombia elections are carried out with 20 or 30 percent, because it does not have freedom of expression. There are no bodies in the streets of Panama. In Panama, we do not have individual rights suspended as they have had in many departments for more than 4 or 5 years. You say you have democracy and criticize ours because you do not know about ours or because you are influenced by U.S. propaganda, which with its power and money buys consciences and steps over people's beliefs. [applause, chanting]

My friend Balbina de Perinan tells me that when I took over the country's highest office I said—in response to a fundamental principle of loyalty and love for my country, for the purpose of struggling for the defense of the country's sovereignty and the dignity many Panamanians want to trample and do not know how to defend, because they have not had the courage as citizens to do so—that I was retaking the Torrijist principles. I said it, and I am going to keep my word. [applause]

This is so because domestically, the Torrijist principles mean struggling to maintain dignity, sovereignty, and the condition of a free and independent state. No one should feel that Panama can stop acting this way; otherwise, he would be betraying the foundations of his fatherland; he would be betraying his country, his nation; and whoever does so, does not have the right to be called a Panamanian.

To return to Torrijist principles means the government and the state must place their institutions at the service of the most needy, because those institutions should carry out positive actions for the Panamanian people. We are not talking about returning to the kind of state where only the wealthy have a right to give orders and where the government does not have institutions because everything that provides a profit must belong to the private sector. No. Everything that provides profits, everything this country needs must be at the service of the most needy Panamanians. [applause]

I will praise, support, and develop the Torrijist principles. Internationally speaking, those principles mean alliance with the needy peoples, because there are not only needy people in one country; there are needy countries as well. These countries were ruined by the world powers, particularly by the United States. The Torrijist principles mean an alliance with the nonaligned countries, with the Third World countries, and the needy people. Those alliances are the duty of all humble men, regardless of their position. Torrijos' principle was to rule a country while understanding and devoting himself to his people. I do not intend to be like him, but I do intend to imitate him and follow his steps to benefit the Panamanian community. [applause] [crowd shouts: "Omar is not dead!"]

Marta Castillo [a San Miguelito resident] told me to run faster, because General Torrijos is far ahead of me. I do not think she is being fair with me. I do not want to run that race. I am happy to run at my own pace, even though he is ahead of me, because friends are not measured by distance. [applause, chants]

As I said earlier, Gen Noriega is a leader. He is a leader of continental magnitude. He transcends our homeland's borders. We can see the emotion he evokes when arriving at a rally or site. He is a true militant and leader. That is precisely what many have not yet understood. Many have not yet understood that a military man, an army chief, can be a peoples leader. That cannot be understood, because no country in the world has someone like him. [applause]

Many cannot understand us either. They are surprised that the quote—dictatorship—unquote does not arrest those who insult it. They are surprised to see that those people circulate freely on the streets. They cannot understand that, because they cannot understand the feeling, humbleness, and humanity of a military man, because usually those countries do not have people like him. However, our Army, our Defense Forces, which come from the peoples' bowels, act with dignity and courage. [applause]

One of the friendly newsmen and photographers were telling me to hold Gen Noriega's hand and raise it so they could take a picture. I do not know why they told me that. Perhaps, they wanted to say: Look at the one who gives the orders and who is next to him; look, Gen Noriega is the one who gives the orders, and the president only obeys.

Right here and now, there is neither a commander who gives orders nor a president who obeys. There is a unity of two friends, who work together for the Panamanian people. [applause]

Many cannot understand that either. They cannot understand us, because for many years we have been above many, above the U.S. democracy. We do not persecute the blacks in Panama. We do not discriminate against blacks. We do not discriminate against people. We do not murder people in Panama. Gangsters are nonexistent in Panama. We also are not the champions of marijuana.

However, that country that beats its chest has all the vices of the world, but it hides them with its money. We raise our head and forehead with the dignity of our actions, the capacity of our heart, and the goodness of the Panamanian people. That goodness is basically found in our roots, San Miguelito. [applause]

Therefore, it is here in San Miguelito where the government I head will hold its first general cabinet meeting. [applause, chanting]

I am the son of a humble home, and I have always been with my social class. I could have become a member of the Union Club, but I never wanted to. The most I have is a membership of Club de Montana [middle-class social club], which is located in San Miguelito. [applause]

I do not want to be a member of the Golf Club. I do not want to be a member of the Union Club. I am happy with my own people. That is the way I was raised, and I will always be that way.

Today, as the president of the Republic—thanks to the kindness of my fellow ministers, thanks to my permanent friendship with Manuel Antonio Noriega, thanks to my friendship with the members of the General Staff, thanks to my frienship with all those here present—I have reached this position, but not to disappoint you. I have reached this position to devote my life to you. Thank you very much. [crowd shouts: "Long live President Manuel Solis Palma! Long Live Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega! Not one step backward!"]

Views Possible U.S. Embargo

PA291926 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Feb 88

[News conference with Manual Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, by unidentified local and foreign reporters on 29 February at the Electoral Tribunal in Panama City]

[Text] [Announcer] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, today made statements about a possible U.S. embargo against Panama and about some aspects of Panama's political situation. Besieged by a group of local and foreign correspondents, Solis Palma was asked why his government has not yet been recognized by some governments.

[Begin recording] [Solis Palma] This must be expected, because this is a situation those governments have not yet understood. I represent constitutional order, but this is not understood because of the propaganda the United States has spread all over the world.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on the strike?

[Solis Palma] You are the one who should offer an opinion. I have noticed that at least 60 percent of the establishments are open, there is full transportation service, and other details. Therefore, I believe the opinion should be yours.

[Reporter] Mr President, does your presence here at the Electoral Tribunal mean you will inform the people that you will remain in power as head of a provisional government until the 1989 elections?

[Solis Palma] It is not a question of being the head of a provisional government. The Constitution establishes that when there is no vice president, the permanent constitutional procedure to pursue through the end of the term is to select one of the ministers to finish the term to which the president and vice presidents were elected.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Solis Palma] I always expect people and governments to act wisely. The embargo would be an aggression against the Panamanian people, and I would never expect to be attacked in that manner. However, if they [the embargoes] materialize, we will continue our struggle to strengthen the Panamanian nation. [end recording]

Noriega Reaffirms Nationalism, Nonalignment

PA291442 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0743 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 29 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega today reaffirmed his position of nationalism and nonalignment in exclusive statements for Spanish television, in a clear attempt to gain the Spanish people's solidarity.

Interviewed by Manolo Alcala, Noriega, donning civilian sportswear—"I spent the day in the countryside," he said—rejected U.S. efforts to export and impose their own solutions on other countries. "We have Spanish, Indian, and black roots. There is nothing Anglo-Saxon about us, and we must seek our own solutions within our own identity and roots," he insisted.

Noriega reiterated that the attacks against him are actually attacks against Panamanian nationalism: "I am an atom in the cosmos," he said. "I am 1.70 meters tall and weigh 140 pounds. I am no Rambo."

The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander explained in detail the difference between the U.S. troops stationed on bases in Panama, in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, and the "Southern Command," whose withdrawal has been requested by the FDP and their civilian supporters. The U.S. forces stationed here for the canal's defense, in accordance with the treaties—the "193d Brigade"—are one thing, and the "Southern Command" is something quite different.

The 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties are a revision of the 1904 treaties, while the "Southern Command" is a World War II-era creation for the continental strategic defense of Washington's interests south of the Rio Grande.

The "Southern Command" was created to safeguard U.S. interests "in the Malvinas, Bolivia, and Nicaragua" Noriega explained, indicating that the problem is that the "Command" is headquartered in Panama, and that Panama could be the victim of confrontations that have nothing to do with the canal or with Panamanian interests.

Regarding the current political crisis in Panama, which exacerbates the economic situation, and the persistent attacks on the economy, Noriega insisted on describing it as a consequence of his refusal to agree with plans to attack Nicaragua.

Noriega also related the Southern Command's creation to Washington's intention of maintaining its military presence in Panama beyond the year 2000—when control of the canal is completely in Panamanian hands—which goes against treaty stipulations.

"I will not sign a revision of the treaties to this effect, and they know that," Gen Noriega said.

Noriega also objected to U.S. pressures and the worldwide "misinformation" campaign, asserting that the United States has spent $300 million on financing that campaign and the internal opposition's activities.

Noriega spoke respectfully of President Eric Arturo Delvalle, ousted by the Legislative Assembly (parliament) at an urgent session on Friday morning. He expressed his belief that Delvalle—who belongs to a social class different than his, than the people's—was the victim of a "plot" that drained his resistance, and that this explains why he attempted to oust Noriega. Despite reports of pressures, Noriega expressed optimism about the future, stating that the crisis has made the people react and expel "foreign elements."

Noriega referred to the new generation of "traitors" as heirs of the 1904 [treaty] and as accomplices of the "more than 20" U.S. interventions in Panama, which gained independence in 1903. He also asserted that "now" popular corrections can be made by the government. Noriega said Panamanians must seek solutions by exploring their own identity, and he spoke of the Defense Forces' leading role as a civil-military "symbiosis" or "amalgamation," and as a solution peculiar to Panama.

The Nicaraguan and Cuban Governments have been the first to express solidarity with the new Panamanian president designated by the parliament, Manuel Solis Palma. The interviewer then asked if U.S. pressures and a possible economic blockade would lead Panama to leftist alternatives. "With all due respect" for the interviewer, Noriega said, "that was a question typically asked by Americans, who see everything in black and white." He defended the position of "nonalignment" and asserted that no one feels an obligation to resort to the left as an alternative to a bad right, or vice versa. "We will not kneel before U.S. pressures; we will not kneel," Noriega said, and he criticized Arthur Davis, the current U.S. ambassador to Panama, whom he described as "contemptible" and a "misinformer."

Discusses Treatment by U.S.

PA291558 Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Madrid, 29 Feb (AFP)—Panamanian strongman General Manuel A. Noriega on Monday in statements for Spanish television said "enough of this foreign presence in our territory" and accused the United States of "disrespecting a country that is struggling for its dignity."

Noriega, interviewed in Panama by a Spanish television reporter, accused the United States of "treating Panama as if it were its enemy in World War II," as if Panama "had dropped an atomic bomb on the United States."

Regarding the real power wielded by the Defense Forces in Panama—led by Noriega—the Panamanian strongman said: "The Defense Forces are part of the Panamanian solution." He added that within the Panamanian military "there is no brutality, there is no repression." He said the soldiers in his country can "walk in the streets," it is not like other places where they are not loved and "must protect themselves."

Meanwhile, the Spanish Government has wisely decided not to make any statements regarding the legitimacy of the "coup" carried out last week by Gen Noriega. Over the weekend the Spanish Foreign Ministry issued a communique in which, without directly referring to President Eric Delvalle's ouster, they demanded the submission of military power to civilian power, and the importance of a legal reorganization.

PRD Managerial Front Supports Solis, FDP

PA291416 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1210 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] Managerial Front communique issued in Panama City on 28 February]

[Text] Considering the importance of our Republic's present situation, the PRD Managerial Front states its position in the following communique:

1. The Panamanian Government in a sovereign act established its national and international position when the Legislative Branch, with the total and decisive support of our party, the PRD, removed the president and vice president of the Republic, who had violated clear and current constitutional and legal norms.

2. The National Legislative Assembly, with the unlimited participation of PRD legislators, confirmed and swore in Manuel Solis Palma as the new president. Solis Palma ratified the Torrijist doctrine of promoting nonalignment and self-determination; particularly the determination to guarantee free, honest, and just elections in May 1989.

3. The Defense Forces of Panama [FDP], particularly its commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega, have been targets of destabililzation attempts by local opposition groups supported by backward U.S. sectors.

4. The new Panamanian Government is able to guarantee to the international community effective control of all Panamanian territory, as well as complying with all its international commitments and therefore expects to continue receiving international support and solidarity.

5. Both in the metropolitan area and the rest of the country, activities continue normally and mass demonstrations in support of the government have taken place.

Therefore, it resolves:

1. To support and collaborate with the government of Manuel Solis Palma in its government actions, particularly with measures leading to the preservation and strengthening of private enterprises, giving special attention to micro, small, and medium enterprises, which have been neglected by the government.

2. To support the FDP, particularly its staff and its commander, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

3. To ratify our historical position of participating actively in free elections in May 1989, which we will win vote by vote in an atmosphere of peace and national reconciliation.

4. To urge progressive businessmen and workers to remain at their work places and work for the good of the homeland and to repudiate subversive actions such as calls for stoppages and strikes.

Issued in Panama City on 28 February 1988.

[Signed] Adsinar Cajar, national secretary of the PRD Managerial Front and its Political Commission.

Issues Manifesto

PA291730 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Feb 88 pp 5, 13

["Manifesto to the Country" issued in Panama City by the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] National Executive Committee; uppercase and boldface as published—date not given]

[Text] **MANIFESTO TO THE COUNTRY**

DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

We are witnessing another chapter of the destabilizing and violent strategy against our people, its Torrijist revolutionary institutions, and particularly against its desire to be free, independent, and sovereign. This is how the systematic, well planned and treacherous strategy has developed and which started when **PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ADMINISTRATION** developed its concept of national security known as the "Santa Fe Document."

The fundamental objective of this strategy is to destroy the independence and liberation processes in any nation of the world, particularly in Latin America, including Panama, where imperialism has established the so-called Southern Command, which they have imposed on our country since the beginning of this century and which has served not only for the national defense of the

northern superpower but also as a military intervention force against the weak and independent peoples in Latin America who have dared to struggle for their dignity, defense of their national interests, and independence.

Since the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, the fundamental objective of the U.S. conservative sectors has been to try to destroy the revolutionary process established in 1968 by General **OMAR TORRIJOS** and the Defense Forces, who removed from power the subservient and pro-imperialist oligarchy which had been ruling the country since 1903. Therefore, it is not difficult to find the reason behind the U.S. Administration's attitude. They have hated Gen **TORRIJOS**, the **FDP**, our **DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD)**, (inspired and created by **OMAR**), and all the political forces supporting the struggle against colonialism. They sentenced the leader of the Panamanian revolution to death because of his uprightness, patriotism, and unyielding position. They were able to physically destroy him. However, they have not been able to destroy—either in the military sector or civilian sector—the seed he planted. This is why the patriotic military men are with **GENERAL MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA** as the leader, and this is why our party continues hindering the [U.S.] desire to continue the military occupation of our country at the end of the current century.

Do the strategists of the interventionism in Panama believe they —after obtaining the betrayals of **DIAZ HERRERA, LEWIS GALINDO, AND BLANDON,** and once the time had come for the master stroke to be carried out by **ERIC ARTURO DELVALLE** against Commander **NORIEGA**—were going to cause the people's uncontrollable uprising and the splintering of the FDP officers and rank and file? Neither of those has occurred because Panamanian people are fully aware of what they could expect from someone who was occupying the Presidency because it was convenient for his own personal economic interest, but whose innermost feelings remain at the Union Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists, and the Civic Crusade, which have desperately been calling for U.S. military intervention in Panama. What **ERIC ARTURO DELVALLE** recently did is not against **MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA,** it is against our people, who will suffer the effects of the economic embargo they intend to impose on us, seeking to intensify the economic crisis they have provoked.

Our **PRD** was prepared for the events that have occurred and thus our ranks are neither surprised nor confused, and beginning this afternoon, will move across the entire country defending **GEN MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA.** We urge all our militants and people in general to be in a general state of alert, defending in the streets, the cities, and the countryside our fatherland's independence and sovereignty in view of the direct threat of foreign intervention.

NOT ONE STEP BACKWARD

NO ONE SURRENDERS HERE

ON OUR FEET OR DEAD, BUT NEVER ON OUR KNEES

COMMANDER NORIEGA: ORDER US

DR ROMULO ESCOBAR BETHANCOURT

President of the National Executive Committee.

PPR Issues Communique on 'U.S. Aggressions'

PA292222 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Feb 88 p 11

[Communique issued by the Revolutionary Panamenist Party on 28 February]

[Text] The National Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Panamenist Party [PPR] held a special session and issued a communique denouncing the escalation of U.S. aggressions against Panama. The communique refers to the resolution that dismissed Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle and was approved by the Legislative Assembly.

In its pronouncement, the PPR points out the following:

1. In view of the failure of the provocation by Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle—a long-time U.S. obedient agent in exchange for increasing the operations of his sugar enterprises—to install in the country a rightist military junta that would yield to U.S. interests, the gringos will present the former president before the OAS General Assembly so he can demand a collective break of diplomatic and commercial relations with Panama and try to increase the isolation of our country.

2. Washington's Commerce Department is also planning to order a trade blockade, considering its economic sanctions did not have the expected results.

3. They will increase their campaign of defamation against the Defense Forces, seeking to divide the solid unity of the armed institute.

4. All this is an excuse for U.S. military intervention in Panama, as in the recent cases of Grenada, Libya, and Lebanon.

These drastic measures are applied to enemy countries. Panama maintains relations with the United States despite the fact that Ambassador Arthur Davis and Deputy Chief of Mission John Maisto have coordinated the destabilization plans that worsened in June 1987. The national oligarchy had no other alternative, other than its alliance with the United States, to seize power again.

As for Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle's argument that his dismissal was a farce, it is advisable to remind him that it was the Legislative Assembly that installed him in office as president on 20 September 1985.

The resources of bribery, cruelty, infamy, and the continuous aggression against Panama constitute a new element of destabilization in Central America, an area affected by the White House's warmongering attitude since 1980.

This situation brings up once again a paranoia, a recent obsession by the Reagan administration. To this we must add the statements by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, who admitted that "an armed action against our [as published] country is being considered."

The PPR denounces before the world the arrogant imperialist attitude that has impoverished our hemisphere with the foreign debt interest, without giving up its wishes to crush the Sandinist regime of Nicaragua after nearly 8 years.

All the slander and charges, unsupported by evidence, and the disinformation at the most outrageous levels tell us that the Reagan administration will end its last term in office by carrying out outrageous and criminal actions to defeat the people, who are not a military power but are firm in their dignified stand of demanding respect for their self-determination and sovereignty.

We will not lower our guard: WE DEMAND THE FULFILLMENT OF THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES AND THAT THE PANAMA CANAL BE TURNED OVER TO OUR PEOPLE. [uppercase as published] The United States violates the treaties every day.

At the same time we are warning that the United States will find a second Vietnam in Panama unless it changes its interventionism. The United States has returned to the tragic times of the Big Stick [preceding two words in English], and now uses other means and style, but it does not hide its aggressive haughtiness.

Panama, 28 February 1988, National Executive Committee, Luis Gaspar Suarez Sierra, president and legal representative of the PPR; Bernardo Dominguez S., vice president of the party; Guillermo A. Nunez S., vice president of the party; Teodoro E. Navas T., secretary general of the party; Francisco Puente, under secretary general and national chief of the PPR youth "Black Berets."

Delvalle Not To Honor 'Noriega Regime' Debts

PA291952 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1910 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, 29 Feb (EFE)—Deposed Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle will announce this week, through advertisements in the international media, that he will not recognize obligations contracted by the "General Manuel Antonio Noriega regime," according to reports issued in Washington today.

Delvalle's "roving ambassador" Gabriel Lewis, who is also one of the Panamanian opposition leaders, today said this decision has been made by the "Panamanian president" from the site where he has been hiding. In addition, the announcements will serve to warn Panamanian embassies and consulates abroad that diplomatic officials transfering funds to "Noriega's regime" will be prosecuted for "stealing public funds."

The consulates transfer large sums of money to Panama because they register Panamanian-flagged ships and oil tankers.

Delvalle, who is the Panamanian president recognized by the United States and several other Latin American countries, has been in hiding since the Panamanian Legislative Assembly decided to remove him from power and appoint former Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma as the new president.

Crusade Expects 90-Percent Industry Paralysis

PA291646 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1356 GMT 29 Feb 88

[By Alistair Doyle]

[Text] Panama City, 29 Feb (REUTER)—Panama's opposition has started to retract its forecast that the country would be paralyzed as a result of the strike against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the man who controls the country's politics.

The National Civic Crusade [CCN], the main opposition group, called for an indefinite strike on Friday. The strike is to begin today. By making its appeal, the organization noted that the country "would be totally paralyzed" with the sole exception of the vessels that cross the Panama Canal.

However, Roberto Barnes, one of the CCN's leaders, said yesterday that the strike would be a success if 40 percent of the businessmen joined it. Barnes added that he expected 90 percent of industries and construction to be paralyzed. However, he said public transportation will not stop operations and that the CCN asked food store owners to remain open so the people will not be left without food.

Eduardo Vallarino, another opposition leader, who was one of six persons who returned from exile in January, said: "No dictatorial regime is going to yield because of a strike." Vallarino told REUTER that the "strike is not the last battle but merely a skirmish. We do not have the means to topple him (Noriega), but we do have the means to force him to leave." He felt the strike could be

effective if there were military oppression because that could create resentment among Panamanians and reinforce international condemnation.

Raul Diaz, son-in-law of deposed president Eric Arturo Delvalle, told REUTER on the eve of the strike that his father-in-law will remain in Panama. He said Delvalle expects to receive a show of support through the strike. However, the Republican Party, Delvalle's own party, withdrew its support from him and endorsed the new president, Manuel Solis Palma. That political party has four seats at the National Legislative Assembly. Yesterday it announced its decision "to support Gen Noriega's nationalist struggle."

Diplomats in Panama maintain that a general strike would cause Noriega's fall. However, they add that few Panamanians are prepared to risk their standard of living, which is one of the highest in Latin America.

The CCN states that the economic attrition caused by the strikes, street protests, and withdrawal of foreign funds from Panamanian banks will be the key to cause the departure of the commander of the Panama Defense Forces. Nevertheless, few CCN strikes—which are often depicted as the final blow to Noriega—have succeeded since protests began in June.

Gen Noriega has interpreted the lack of support to the strikes as proof of his contention that the opposition is limited to a middle-class minority. Moreover, the opposition sectors do not endorse violent actions and systematically avoid clashes with the troops. Since Delvalle was ousted, only a few trucks with soldiers have been seen at certain points in this capital.

Police Chief Prepares Security

PA291938 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Statement by Colonel Leonidas Macias, chief of the police force; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Today the police implemented an operation, and, as the public knows, for the past few days we have carried out security operations on buses and in different sectors of Panama City. In the specific case of a general strike, we also have plans to ensure the safety of pedestrians, drivers, and store owners who do not wish to participate in the strike. Now, if the supermarkets close and the people want to eat, I cannot stop the people from getting food.

'Normal Climate' Reported

PA291615 Paris AFP in Spanish 1500 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 29 Feb (AFP)—An apparently normal climate prevails in Panama City, where private enterprise and the opposition have called a "sitdown" strike [huelga de brazos caidos] to force the resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

At 0830 buses were circulating normally through the city's streets and thousands of workers were flocking to their work centers. There were no antiriot police or government troops this morning near the banking center, a traditional bastion of the opposition forces. Nevertheless, the government ordered university classes suspended in an apparent move to prevent possible disturbances.

An employee of the Banque Nationale de Paris, located on Via Espana, told AFP that "it is hard to determine what will happen in the next few hours. It is true that many people do not like Noriega; however, the people are afraid to go into the streets and are tired of struggling while everything still remains the same."

Some stores on Via Espana and on 50th Street, which have been the scenes of antigovernment demonstrations since June, and some banking establishments have covered their windows with metal grates to prevent looting and destruction. According to official sources there are 100 international banks handling assets totalling some $35 billion in Panama.

The sitdown strike has been called by the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP), the Chamber of Commerce, and the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP). The new attempt at staging a general strike is being made 4 days after the Legislative Assembly dismissed President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who unsuccessfully tried to oust Noriega.

Delvalle, who assumed power in late 1985 after his predecessor, Nicolas Ardito Barletta "resigned," has gone "underground" for fear of being apprehended by government troops. However, Manuel Solis Palma, the new head of state, told AFP last night that "there is no arrest warrant pending against Delvalle. If he wants to live in peace in our country he can do so, because nobody is persecuted here." However, rather than live as a simple citizen, Delvalle has demanded his status as "constitutional president," describing those wielding power as "usurpers."

Meanwhile, progovernment labor leaders today warned businessmen that they may seize any stores that do not open. "A closed business will be a seized business," says the government-run newspaper CRITICA in a full-page headline today.

Likewise, Police Chief Colonel Leonidas Macias has reiterated that his forces will preserve "order and free movement." Macias had warned over the weekend that the police will not clamp down on Panamanians who storm stores looking for food.

In another development, the Revolutionary Panamenist Party (PPR), member of the government coalition, has charged in a communique that the Reagan administration "has endangered the security of the Panama Canal." The PPR said the diplomatic pressures and the threat of a commercial embargo are aimed at dividing the FDP and using this as an excuse for an eventual military invasion.

The United States has approximately 10,000 troops and several military bases with the latest military technology in Panama. Nevertheless, Panamanians do not seem to fear a U.S. military action—which they think is unlikely—but government dailies reported movements of troops and helicopters in the canal area.

The Panamanian press has also called attention to statements by two U.S. senators who oppose [U.S.] compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties in 1999 if Panama's Government is "unstable" or controlled by Gen Noriega.

Radio Mundial on Stoppage

PA291728 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Roberto Arosemena commentary]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] You can see we have been consistent. Those who have been saying we have been following Delvalle's or the U.S.'s line are wrong. There is no basis to say that the Civic Crusade responds to foreign interests. We do not respond to foreign interests. It is possible that, for some, what the embassy says is more important than what we, the Panamanian people, say. Some might believe this, but this is not the general feeling. After all that has happened, the Civic Crusade now takes up the struggle and says it is necessary to return the country to civilian rule to establish a genuine democracy. More importantly, we demand the immediate resignation of all the military men and civilians involved in corruption, crimes, fraud, and abuse of power. We demand the resignation of all the military men and civilians involved in fraud. And who are involved in fraud? Those who profit from it. And who profited from fraud until the 25th? We all know it was the UNADE [National Democratic Unity]. Who profited from fraud as of the 25th? Those who belonged to the cabinet and the UNADE. I think this is all very clear. In Panama, the disagreement between the ruling military and civilians who want the Panamanian people to share in power has increased.

We have been reading the communiques issued by CONATO [National Union of Organized Workers] and FENASEP [National Federation of Associations and Organizations of Public Employees]. They have reported that this regime has let itself be manipulated by interests that militate against the nation and the people. This is important. For us, this is not a matter of who is in power. CONATO and FENASEP, which sided with the Noriega-Delvalle government until a few days ago, are now in the Noriega-Solis Palma government. These organizations maintain the same position. They are looking for a scapegoat, somebody to blame for the corruption, crisis, and submissiveness plaguing the Panamanian nation because of the military government.

Intervention is another topic also worth mentioning. Civic Crusade members working for the Panama Canal yesterday issued a communique reporting intervention in Panama's domestic affairs. They intend to participate in the national stoppage and invite other workers to join this stoppage. They said that—and this is important—as Panamanian citizens, they should have a say in their country. All of us Panamanians are entitled to participate in elections and express our opinions freely in our own territory. All employees working for both the U.S. Armed Forces and the Panama Canal are, first and foremost, Panamanian citizens. Second, they are workers. Third, they work at the Canal Zone. As citizens, they have a right to protest and to issue comuniques, such as the one they issued establishing the legal grounds for their decision to back the national stoppage.

Intervention is a problem that the Panamanian military legalized in 1977. Their threats neither frighten the United States nor deceive the Panamanian people. Intervention in Panama is one of the military's great crimes. Despite their large deployment of forces, the ability of the military to resist intervention is negligible because they are the leading interventionist force in our country. Now you will perhaps ask: So what is the problem? Why does the United States permanently threaten Noriega with intervention and an embargo? Gentlemen, this is a domestic quarrel between an empire aware that it received more than it bargained for. This is the problem Panama's military faces in its current relations with the U.S. State Department and other agencies. It got more than it bargained for. Despite this, however, they dared not take legal and constitutional measures to handle public affairs, simply because they do not enjoy the people's or the nation's support. This is what happened to Delvalle. He acted unilaterally. We do not know who he consulted to take this measure. One thing is for sure, however; that measure did not satisfy the Panamanian nation's great desire for democracy.

There is another misconception we want to mention here. Our struggle is not against a person, but against a system. It is a struggle to establish respect for the law, peaceful coexistence, and a consensus among all Panamanians. This is what we struggle for. We and Carlos Efrain Guzman Baules [opposition member killed during September 1987 demonstration] did not try to replace Noriega with Justines. [passage omitted] In the first action to repudiate the military dictatorship now represented by a new government, which is a continuation of the former one, the Civic Crusade makes it clear that, for 9 months, it has led the Panamanian people's struggle to recover moral values, to return to civilian rule, to reorganize public institutions, and to establish genuine democracy.

The Civic Crusade reiterates, the national strike that will start to grow today demands the immediate resignation of every military man and civilian involved in corruption, crimes, fraud, and abuse of public power. We also demand the establishment of a democratic government.

We have already clearly defined such a democratic government. The democratic transition government we want must respond to the people's will expressed in 1984. We said that we did not specifically support those who won those elections but we have struggled to have the people's will respected in Panama. This is our struggle, a struggle for principles. We do not struggle for interests, but Panamanians fail to understand this. And some politicians do not want to understand that Panamanians have already begun to understand that ours is a struggle to serve the nation, not to profit from it. In this context, the government truly elected in 1984 and headed by Arnulfo Arias Madrid is the democratic government we all know and acknowledge. [passage omitted]

Civic Crusade Leader Aurelio Barria Arrested

PA291719 Paris AFP in Spanish 1645 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 29 Feb (AFP)—Panamanian authorities today arrested Aurelio Barria, leader of the National Civic Crusade, when he tried to enter the Chamber of Commerce offices in downtown Panama City.

The special AFP correspondent was able to confirm that Barria was hustled into a police car by policemen guarding the Chamber of Commerce offices. Barria is president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Several dozen opposition sympathizers tried to prevent the police from taking Barria away and shouted "murderers" and "gorillas" at them.

Legislator Simon Quiroz of the Authentic Panamenist Party and LA PRENSA executive Ruben Dario Carlos, also of the opposition, were present when Barria was arrested.

One of the policemen who participated in the arrest said Barria "has a case pending with the authorities," which is presumably related to the call for a nationwide sit-down strike beginning today. Barria is one of the five Civic Crusade leaders who returned to Panama in January from the United States, where they were in exile for more than 5 months in the aftermath of the violent protests in Panama in June and July 1987.

Released by Authorities

PA291846 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1815 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 29 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Aurelio Barria, president of the Chamber of Commerce, which is one of the organizations that called the nationwide strike that began today, was arrested and later released this morning.

Colonel Leonidas Macias, chief of police, accompanied local and international newsmen to Saint Thomas Hospital so they could witness the opposition leader's release.

Barria, who is also one of the leaders of the National Civic Crusade, was arrested when he tried to enter the Chamber of Commerce offices, which the police have been heavily guarding since Friday to prevent access.

Following his arrest, Barria was taken to Saint Thomas Hospital for X-rays and a medical checkup to prove he was not assaulted or beaten. Upon leaving the hospital Barria admitted he had only been shoved.

Appeals to Democracies

PA292255 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2037 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 29 Feb (DPA)—Aurelio Barria, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, today requested help from all the democratic countries of the world to Dprevent Panama from becoming another Nicaragua."

Barria, who was arrested for a few hours and subsequently released by the authorities, held a news conference in which he said "the Panamanian situation is not a U.S. problem, but something that concerns all democratic countries of the world."

Antonio Dominguez, a businessman and member of the directorate of the majority opposition party, the Authentic Panamenist Party, described the indefinite strike the opposition and the business sectors began today, as "successful." Dominguez added: "Although many stores are open, they are not selling anything, which is our success." Dominguez said he is optimistic that other enterprises will join the strike in the coming hours.

Romulo Escobar, president of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), said that "generally speaking, the strike is a failure." Escobar stated: "It is an enterprise strike and does not represent the majority of the people."

PAPO President Zuniga Issues Statement

PA291447 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1325 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Statement by People's Action Party, PAPO, President Carlos Ivan Zuniga—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today, I want to make an appeal, an anguished call. The world is watching us. There is not only pressure because of the U.S. vested interest, there is more than that. Today, it is not possible to say only the Yankee imperialists' interests are interfering in Panamanian's problems. When groups like the Group of Eight—the Latin American democratic governments—have separated Panama [from the group]

because Panama is also in need of Contadora [efforts], when democratic presidents in a clear and determined manner are warning about the lack of democracy in Panama, this means they have already realized [what is taking place here].

The game of presenting the image that there is a liberation process is over because of the reality of a nation dying due to the lack of democracy. These presidents have understood this.

Therefore Panamanians, let us agree and let us invoke our religious and traditional roots, let us invoke our ancestors who gave us a fatherland with freedom. Let us agree to have a constituent assembly, which is where we will be able to hold a political dialogue to consolidate a new state. [I do not mean] a new form of government, but rather an improvement in the traditional system of government, to obtain truly republican institutions through the republican system of government, which will be based on the desire of the majorities, which will guarantee that the desire of the majorities will never be betrayed.

What we have to do is so simple. The path has been set, and those who wish to follow this path will do so because they love the fatherland. Those who do not want to follow this path will do so because they wish for tragedy in our country, with bloodshed, sorrow, and tears. That is not the position of the People's Action Party.

We want to have in Panama exactly what Alan Garcia wants for Latin America, a free Latin America, free of the Americans... [corrects himself] free for Latin Americans. We want a free Panama for Panamanians. We want a free Panama, in the most absolute doctrinal concept. We want a free Panama where people may freely [express] their views. We want a Panama where people's desires will be respected. We want a Panama where people may think, and dream with freedom. We want a Panama where people may freely express their imagination, and may live with no restrictions or fears. This is what we want for Panama. This is not a dream, this is simply the permanent struggle of Panamanians for their own identity. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Caputo on Falklands Maneuvers, Panama

PY291729 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1647 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] United Nations, 29 Feb (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today said that before the end of the week the Argentine Government will decide whether to call for a United Nations Security Council meeting to address the British military maneuvers in the South Atlantic.

After visiting UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Argentine minister said the maneuvers are "incomprehensible."

"It seems that Great Britain does not believe in negotiations and that it can conceive of nothing but the use of force. We are shocked," he added.

Caputo said his government is considering the possibility of calling for a UN Security Council meeting—Argentina is a permanent [as received] member of the council—explaining that a decision will be made Thursday.

Asked about the position to be adopted by the Argentine Government in connection with a draft resolution in Geneva on Cuba's human rights record, Caputo declined to give a direct answer.

"Our position is based on three principles: There cannot be condemnation without a trial, all investigations should be encouraged, and the sensitive human rights issue must remain outside all political manipulation," he stressed.

Last year the Argentine Government voted against a proposal sponsored by the U.S. Administration condemning Cuba's human rights record.

Now the U.S. initiative does not condemn but maintains that it is necessary to investigate the situation, a difference Caputo himself stressed.

Concerning recent events in Panama, which compelled the Group of Eight to suspend Panama's membership with the group, Caputo said that "Latin America is weakened each time democracy is attacked in the region."

"We have adopted a stance I believe is clear and courageous. We did not pass judgment on a country, but maintained that the members of this club must be democratic," he stated.

Argentina is the member of the Group of Eight that has most strongly expressed its position toward the dismissal of President Eric Delvalle, whom Argentina still recognizes as the Panamanian president. Argentina has even recalled its ambassador for consultations.

Alfonsin Endorses Angeloz' Candidacy

PY291248 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2035 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Arroyito, Cordoba, 28 Feb (NA)—This afternoon President Raul Alfonsin supported the presidential candidacy of Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz, whom he described as "the pride of Argentine politicians." Alfonsin also praised the "extrordinary and efficient" work Angeloz has carried out as Cordoba governor during the last 4 years.

Speaking to 5,000 people who had gathered at the "General Paz" Plaza in Arroyito, Alfonsin said "to come to Cordoba is to witness how an extraordinary and efficient administration has been able to properly resolve the anguish, worries, uncertainties, and dissatisfaction of the people."

After wishing Cordoba citizens "all the luck you deserve," Alfonsin said: "and part of this would include having government leaders such as Eduardo Angeloz, who is the pride of Argentine politicians."

President Alfonsin made a fiery impromptu speech at the end of a visit of slightly more than 3 hours to this thriving Cordoba city. During his visit Alfonsin inaugurated works and toured the "Arcor" factory, which employs about 5,000 people.

Alfonsin on Group of 8, Cairns Group Meetings

PY262109 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1922 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 26 Feb (NA)—This afternoon, President Raul Alfonsin reasserted his criticism of countries that subsidize their agricultural exports. In addition, he said that the declaration issued yesterday in Colombia by the Group of Eight foreign ministers on the Malvinas issue is "a very good declaration."

Alfonsin talked with reporters at the metropolitan airport at 1550, a few minutes before departing for San Carlos de Bariloche, where he will close the meeting of the Cairns Group. The Cairns Group is comprised of countries that do not subsidize meat and grain exports.

In this regard, Alfonsin said: "Today's meeting is very important because it is in meetings of this nature that those countries that do not subsidize their agricultural production will strive to unite our strategy in our struggle to achieve a better and more just economic order."

As an example, he said that between 1980 and 1987 "our exports have decreased by almost 45 percent." [passage omitted]

Asked about the institutional crisis affecting Panama, Alfonsin said: "We have issued a declaration expressing our solidarity with the Panamanian Government and the need to uphold the constitutional order."

Regarding the position on the Malvinas issue disclosed yesterday by the foreign ministers on the Group of Eight, which is meeting in Colombia, Alfonsin said: "It was a very good declaration which further commits the recognition of all Argentines in views of the solidarity that Latin American countries have permanently expressed toward Argentina in this regard."

Cairns Group Agrees on Proposals to GATT

PY270040 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1926 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Bariloche, 26 Feb (DYN)—The representatives of the agriculture ministries of the "Cairns Group" nations, after 3 days of deliberations, today agreed on a set of proposals to be submitted to the next GATT medium-term review board meeting. The review board meeting is in preparation for the December GATT meeting in Toronto, Canada.

The agriculture ministers agreed that the medium-term review board should analyze first freezing, and then reduction, of world support to agriculture subsidies during 1989-90; the freezing and reduction of subsidies to production and exports; the immediate increase of possibilities of access to all markets; and an agreement for the administration of stocks to avoid upsetting world markets.

The ministers also agreed that these results are a first step toward the objectives set forth in the Punta del Este declaration, and they urged group members to work during 1988 on a long-term general guideline ordering world agriculture trade.

Regarding the Cairns Group strategy and program of action for 1988, the representatives of agriculture ministries said the following was convenient for their purposes:

1. The definition of elements in a wider market framework and a more exact definition of the concept of cash payment in the long-term reform.

2. The seizing of every political opportunity to seek support for those objectives. This should include informal meetings on the world economy by trade leaders.

3. The early establishment of a broadly represented team to assist the president of the group of negotiations.

Former Officers in Hiding Distribute Letters

PY291531 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1302 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Feb (NA)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Arturo Felix Gonzalez Naya and former Captain Emilio Pedro Morello, both in hiding, have disseminated notes reiterating a series of accusations against the government and the Army leadership.

Gonzalez Naya's note was published by the newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO under the title "National Army in Operations, Communique No 1." The letter warns that "if an ethical solution to the consequences of the fight against subversion is not found...the true Argentine Army will begin operations." The letter does not specify the nature of the operations.

The letter stressed that "our victory will be the victory of the Argentine people who are bitterly and powerlessly suffering a new frustration, and they are discouraged by materialism, immorality, and corruption."

The letter, signed by Gonzalez Naya, a follower of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, attributed a hypothetical "deep divisions within the Army" to "the egoism and arrogance of a sector that does not see beyond their personal interests."

Morello's letter, on the other hand, recalls that "during the 1970's I risked my life fighting subversion because, just as today, I was convinced of what I was doing. Others, meanwhile, including some wearing the same kind of uniform, took advantadge of the turmoil to get rich and commit crimes to benefit themselves."

After criticizing the military leadership during the Malvinas conflict, Morello said that "the worst blows" we saw were that "the same subversives we fought against yesterday have today again encroached on the government."

The letter adds that "those who should care for the well-being of the people only worry about getting rich at the expense of the sacrifice and sweat of workers."

After talking about his military career, Morello said he met with Vice President Victor Martinez "and gave him a step-by-step account of what is currently happening and what could have being avoided" in the Army. Morello added that Martinez "openly lied to us."

Morello further stated that Army Chief General Jose Caridi broke his promise to be "Operation Dignidad's flag bearer," and he added that Caridi "is indebted to us, and a gentleman's debt is either paid or it must be collected."

Bolivia

Government Supports Delvalle; Recalls Envoy

PA291413 Paris AFP in Spanish 1243 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 19 Feb (AFP)—Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Gumucio issued an official communique stating that Victor Paz Estenssoro's government has decided to recognize Eric Arturo Delvalle as the "lawful and constitutional president of the fraternal Republic of Panama."

The official communique further stated that "in view of the latest events taking place in Panama, the Bolivian Government expresses its conviction that the current political crisis must be overcome without any foreign intervention that could limit the free expression of the Panamanian people's will."

The deputy foreign minister also revealed that Samuel Gallardo, Bolivian ambassador to Panama, had been recalled to this capital to report on the current Panamanian situation.

Government Declares COB Strike Illegal

PY292301 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0118 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 26 Feb (EFE)—The Bolivian Government today declared illegal the strike organized by the COB for 1 and 2 March, and it warned it will implement measures to guarantee public order.

At a COB meeting it was decided to call a 48-hour strike to protest the current government's economic policy. The COB had "unsuccessfully" negotiated for 45 days with the government without reaching any agreement regarding the socioeconomic demands of the workers.

Bolivian Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran described the COB strike as an "attack" on democracy and warned that the government many adopt measures to guarantee "social stability."

Alfonso Pena Rueda, deputy labor minister, said the strike is illegal. He said the government will discount 2 days' pay from the salary of workers who strike. He also said the government will apply other sanctions.

COB Executive Secretary Simon Reyes today said the strike marks the beginning of an "extended" confrontation with the government, which will end only when the workers "defeat the neoliberal economic model."

Reyes said the workers are against the government economic model, which "established a salary freeze, increased the price of staples, effected mass dismissals, and carried out other unpopular measures with the main purpose of paying an unfair foreign debt."

Government Hopeful of Renewed Sea Claim Talks

PY010005 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0203 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 28 Feb (EFE) — It was reported today that the Bolivian Government hopes the democratization of Chile will bring about a renewal of the negotiations between Chile and Bolivia to find a solution to the Bolivian problem of being landlocked.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry today released a declaration in reply to the Chilean Government's recent resolutions on Bolivia's landlocked situation.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry asserts that "the people of the continent know Bolivia was forced to sign the 1904 Treaty when its territory was occupied by Chilean military forces, which imposed their conditions by force, which morally invalidates the mentioned international instrument."

The Bolivian people "have never acepted their landlocked situation as permanent and consider the free transit measure imposed by the treaty as a temporary solution to their isolation, for which purpose Bolivia has always counted on the solidarity of friendly countries."

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry states that Bolivia is reiterating its desire to resolve the problem "just as it has been doing within the framework of the UN and OAS principles, which advocate a peaceful resolution of the conflict."

Military Chief on Shining Path Attacks

PY010212 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0046 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 27 Feb (EFE) — General Jorge Rodriguez Bravo, Armed Forces commander in chief, today said the Bolivian Armed Forces have sufficient means to repel any attack by the "Shining Path," but they do not have means to control the borders.

According to Gen Rodriguez, some parts of the Bolivian border "may be penetrated, but we are doing our best to prevent this."

Gen Rodriguez made these remarks when commenting on an incident that occurred in Puno, Peru, near the Bolivian border. On 23 February, Maoist Shining Path terrorists in Puno attacked a station wagon carrying Bolivian experts of the Andes Self-Development Program.

Gen Rodriguez said that after the report of the incident, border control and the number of patrols were increased to detect any movement of the guerrilla group toward the Bolivian interior.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry today reported that Nilon Carinon, who was driving the station wagon at the time of the attack, was released injured in Peru.

According to the ministry's report, the station wagon was dynamited after the attack.

As a result of the guerrilla attack, a Peruvian agriculture expert was killed and Bolivian engineer Alberto Mariaca was injured and is recovering in the Peruvian city of Arequipa.

Brazil

Nobrega on Talks; Denies Moratorium Lifted

PY011107 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney yesterday met at Planalto Palace with the Economic Development Council. As he opened the meeting, President Sarney reiterated his desire to resolve the foreign debt and public deficit problems as soon as possible.

Sarney said Minister Mailson da Nobrega enjoys his confidence and unconditional support in normalizing Brazil's international economic and financial relations and to drastically cut the public deficit.

The president said the agreement reached with creditor banks represents an important step for Brazil and that it reflects the international financial community's confidence in the government.

The finance, planning, labor, agriculture, industry and commerce, and civil household ministers attended the meeting.

Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega explained to the members of the council the results of negotiations with creditor banks. According to the minister, Brazil has not promised to lift the moratorium, but has adopted the strategy of paying interest with its emergency reserves in order to be able to continue negotiations.

Sarney Requests Presidential Term Certificate

PY291223 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Feb 88 p 2

[Excerpt] Brasilia—President Jose Sarney yesterday took the first step to prepare for an eventual legal action to prevent the Constituent Assembly from reducing his term. According to a report submitted to PMDB leader Mario Covas by Senate First Secretary Jutahy Magalhaes, Sarney asked the Congress board to issue a presidential term certificate [certidao de termo de posse].

Practically since the day the Assembly was installed, Consultor General Saulo Ramos has mentioned the possibility that Sarney may initiate legal action with the Supreme Federal Tribunal, on the grounds that the current Constitution sets forth that his term should last 6 years and that the Constituent Assembly is not empowered to reduce it. Government sources last night explained that the president's initiative does not mean Sarney will immediately raise the issue before the Supreme Federal Tribunal. Presidential advisers have said the president decided to take this preventive measure in case he has to resort to the courts if the Assembly reduces his term. [passage omitted]

Sarney on Destabilization 'Plot,' Situation

PY291811 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Feb 88 pp 8, 9

["Exclusive" interview with President Jose Sarney by Evandro Carlos de Andrade on 24 February; place not given]

[Excerpts] O GLOBO: Mr President, last week you talked about serious unrest in the political sector. Could you expand on this? Were you referring to the political crisis affecting the country? What is your view about this crisis?

Sarney: It is a fact that the crisis, or whatever people may call it, exists. This is a deep structural crisis, and it is not new. It has been maturing for quite some time, and if we lack the courage and strength to overcome it, its outcome will have unforeseeable consequences. The root of this crisis lies in that somewhere in our history, Brazil lost itself in the structural reforms that sought to achieve its political, social, and economic development. We remained somewhere between populism and xenophobia; accepting poverty and social stagnation; somewhere between illiteracy and the domination of elites. In the economic sector we implemented a capitalist policy without any business competition, and a subsidized market economy without markets. The state has reflected all this.

O GLOBO: How, then, did this crisis come about?

Sarney: We have to identify two phases of this crisis. The first one is that since the beginning of the 1980's Brazil has been experiencing a gradual deterioration of a structural crisis caused by both domestic and foreign factors. In view of the high degree of interdependence in the world economy, the impact of foreign factors in this crisis is overwhelming.

But it is paradoxical that in an economically interrelated world the degree of cooperation between countries develops at an extremely slow pace. Skeptics believe there is only future in protectionism and for those who believe in the "every man for himself" law. This is why I have reasserted in international meetings and conferences that Latin American countries should expect nothing in this regard from industrialized countries.

But the truth is that Western economies are experiencing the same crisis, although undoubtedly at different levels, and this has resulted in a generalized stagnation. It is within this context that we must view the Brazilian situation. Brazil is losing its capacity to invest. But, what is even worse, Brazil is not investing, either in the public or private sectors.

In the private sectors we have not received any foreign capital contributions. In the public sector we are investing at the lowest rate that has been recorded in the recent past, to be able to meet basic national needs. The fiscal

burden is only 10 percent of the GDP. This means the government has no capacity to finance its own expenses or services. What is even worse, it is unable to keep up with the country's dynamism.

Brazil's present situation is similar to that of the early 1960's, when we experienced the collapse of public services and the country experienced a serious institutional crisis.

From the political point of view we can also say that we have not taken as much advantage as we could have from the political transition process.

The Change Brazil Project, launched by Tancredo Neves, to a large extent was headed by a minority group that was quite active but too radical. This group made a great effort to control government initiatives and impose government guidelines at the time when we assumed power.

I have always believed this group should participate in politics and have its own political space because it did represent a segment of Brazilian society, although it did not represent the entire society. But we could not allow this minority to take control, because it would have led the country into stagnation and backwardness.

In view of this, I adopted a middle-of-the-road position; that is, allowing all political groups to participate, but without any of them exercising any hegemony.

The Cruzado Plan was implemented, and for some time things went well. Many people profited from the Cruzado Plan and reaped benefits from it.

Yet when the Cruzado Plan was exhausted, the radicals resumed their destabilizing actions with more acrimony, particularly within the Constituent Assembly. They succeeded in taking the initiative in the Assembly and tried to approve those "draft resolutions," seeking to put the Assembly above the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Their objective was to destabilize the executive branch and to reverse, destroy, confuse, and destabilize the legal system, the state of law.

This plot was led with some sophistication, beginning with the proposal that maintained that the Constituent Assembly had no plan of its own and that neither the Senate nor the Chamber of Deputies were working. The proposal provided for a plan that was to be created and drawn up through people's movements, with everything involved in that type of movement, including mass demonstrations and unbearable pressure on lawmakers. Under such circumstances, the radicals were to take control of the Constituent Assembly committees, as happened with the Systematization Commission.

In that specific case, the move included pressure at a rank-and-file and at a high level. This plan, however, was defeated by the creation of the big centrist group [centrao], which is nothing but a reaction to that usurpation of power. I never considered the centrist group as an ideological group, but as a reaction of the majority against a minority.

Thereafter, that minority and extremely radical group chose me as the target of all its destabilization campaigns, disguising the failure of its coup attempt, placing the responsibility on me, and charging me with interfering with the work of the Constituent Assembly. That is the origin of this campaign of personal, undeserved, lunatic hatred.

The Constituent Assembly implemented a mechanism that served to criticize the government instead of addressing constitutional issues. If we performed a statistical analysis, we would see that 90 percent of the speeches delivered at the Assembly are against the government and that 10 percent deal with the constitution.

The government, however, has had neither the chance nor legal opportunity to be defended. This antidemocratic action denies legality.

Even the possibility of dismissing the president and "wiping out the authoritarian garbage from power" was mentioned. There were attempts to compel a presidential resignation, and there were those who bet on a tragedy, something like what happened with Vargas.

I have resisted all that, and I will resist everything else. This distortion is so strong that Senator Jarbas Passarinho has noted that, even though he is an opposition member, he has had no chance of speaking because "the ruling-party leaders" take all the time to attack the government.

What kind of regime can survive such distortion?

O GLOBO: However, Mr President, the opposition is not made up only of the minority groups within Congress. There are governors, business sectors, and labor sectors that are part of a broad opposition to the government.

Sarney: Yes, but that is another type of opposition. It is a political, democratic opposition. Yet it should be noticed that the governors who have joined it are those who support the radical group in Congress. [passage omitted]

The situation is more complex in the labor sector, which is very much divided and in which radical sectors have placed major factions at the service of a political party, sponsoring radical attitudes and political strikes against the Cruzado Plan with the objective of killing it. Other labor sectors joined the game, if nothing else than to

avoid traveling in the caboose. I believe, however, that they will soon have a chance for self-criticism and will realize they have made a political mistake.

O GLOBO: What was that error, Mr President?

Sarney: The error is not restricted to them; it encompasses a whole portion of the radical left. This is a serious error in the political history of contemporary Brazil.

Any transition period is a period of advancement. In Spain, for instance, the transition made the leadership of Gonzalez viable, thus making possible a new social and political agreement in the country. In Portugal before that, the transition made possible many social and political reforms under the Soares leadership. And mind you, Spain and Portugal were emerging from nearly half a century of dictatorships.

Here, on the contrary, the transition is moving backwards, because, at the moment that radical group became thwarted in its plan to take over, by assault, the Constituent Assembly, it tried to save face by entering into agreements of all sorts. In this way, this group only contributes to the making of a disorganized project that has no unity. It contributed to making a backward-looking constitution.

On the chapter on social rights, for instance, those minorities, resorting to agreements, betrayed the promises they had assumed with the workers and let go of popular amendments they had supported, to devote their attention to political issues such as the office term and government system, and attempted to arouse the people emotionally in order to hide from the failure of their primary plan, which was to assume power. They came out for demagogic issues such as the number of working hours, overtime, assistance to families—secondary issues.

The struggle against me was a very serious historical error because I am not a reactionary president. On the contrary, I wanted to reconcile conflicts and create conditions for a serene process that could end in an advanced, progressive constitution—one juridically honorable for Brazil that would unify the nation.

But to reach that objective is getting to be impossible because that minority group is only thinking of gaining power, of an antidemocratic action against the Constitution. In adopting an absolutely unrealistic position, the radicals provoked a reaction; namely that the transition retreated rather than advanced. This elicited the creation of a rightist mass movement—something that I believe has not happened anywhere else in the world.

The UDR [Rural Democratic Union], for instance, has gained force and today nobody can deny the vigorous leadership of Mr Ronaldo Caiado. His leadership is to a large extent reinforced by the radical left, which began to talk about land takeovers, violence, elimination of property rights, and the dismantling of the economic system. Those slogans created a climate of distrust in the country, particularly among small- and medium-size landowners and investors. Those slogans had negative repercussions at all levels of private investors and deepened the economic crisis.

O GLOBO: Do you, then, believe the constitution should have been written more slowly so it could have turned out better?

Sarney: No, on the contrary. It was I one who wanted the constitution to be written quickly. In the bill I sent to Congress calling a Constituent Assembly, I stated that the constitution should have been ready during last year's congressional session, which closed on 4 December. We could have already had the constitution last year had the text I submitted, when I proposed the calling of a constituent assembly, been maintained.

But as it turned out, Congress did not want that, because at that time the radicals thought that the longer it took to write the constitution the better it would be to undermine and destabilize the government.

Since that plan of the radicals and opportunists failed, they are now centered on personal political plans, acting as demagogues running after an electorate, not in the interest of the nation or the constitution.

Despite all that, however, I want the constitution finished as soon as possible since the constituent process was frustrated. The makers of this constitution are sensing that the charter they are working on will not last. They themselves are acknowledging this. Soon this charter will have to be modified. And this is terrible: Writing a constitution without perspectives for the future, thinking of reforming it while it is being prepared. It is like marrying while already thinking of divorce. This justifying observation is being heard a lot: "We will improve it later." Let us agree that this is tragic. [passage omitted]

O GLOBO: Currently, the CUT [United Workers Confederation] and the CGT [General Workers Confederation] occupy one side of the spectrum, while pragmatic unionism occupies the other; moreover, there are other ideas throughout the country. Therefore, how do you view the labor movement in Brazil at this time?

Sarney: I believe the Brazilian labor movement has adopted a very partisan-political orientation and placed itself at the service of a faction. The independent union sectors that until then had not adopted this orientation have decided to do so in order to avoid lining up behind the radicals. In fact, although those sectors might have been left behind by the labor movement, they would not have been forgotten. I am sure that gradually the workers will realize they cannot be herded into serving the political interests of others. The workers are being hurt

because these partisan-political movements are not defending the workers' rights, but rather defending the alleged right of parties and politicians to use the workers.

An examination of what has happened in the past 3 years shows the ultra-radical movements have set back the labor movement and strengthened the right, and they are threatening to move the country backwards. The labor movement has become a magazine-cover movement. It only serves to boost some leaders. Workers have to go back to the basic salary and employment issue. If salaries are raised to a level the employeers cannot pay, the workers are out of jobs. Today, employers and employees are in the same boat. If the boat sinks, the workers sink, too.

O GLOBO: There is an amendment calling for a 4-year term of office for your successors. If approved, this amendment will in principle invalidate the argument that holding elections this year would be a form of discrimination against you, sir. How do you see this?

Sarney: As I have said, I am not fighting for a specific term of office. I am fighting so the democratic transition will be completed and institutional processes will not be truncated. I believe that discussing the term of office does not resolve the serious institutional crisis the country is experiencing, a crisis that, unchecked, will lead the country into complicated situations. There are people who want to set the country on fire. My term of office is that of Tancredo Neves, intended to last 6 years. I am not usurping anything. If I were to look at this from a personal standpoint, I would relinquish the term of office issue.

O GLOBO: What order of priority would you give to the main problems the country is facing at this time?

Sarney: I believe we are facing a very serious political problem. This problem is in turn the root of an economic problem, which in turn becomes a social problem.

To address the economic problem, we need a compact political system capable of confronting difficult situations, of taking strong measures, of commanding support, of implementing a program supported by a party. Brazil does not have this sort of structure. At this time Brazil is going through a process of political disintegration. What we are trying to do in this scenario is to keep the economic problem from creating an extreme situation. We are working in that direction. No one wants to respect the law in Brazil. We are defending the state of law, not undermining its foundations.

O GLOBO: To what do you attribute the CNBB [National Brazilian Bishops Conference] attack on the government?

Sarney: The CNBB has not attacked the government. Being a large organization, the CNBB actively participated in the political process during the period of authoritarian rule. And it has not yet curbed the impulse to express its opinion on matters of a political nature. So when the CNBB gives its opinion, it gives the impression it is attacking the government.

I have the best relations with the leaders of the church in Brazil, and I have received from the pope much consideration and many expressions of good will and understanding. I would be the last to create problems with the church in our country. The fact that I am a Christian must also be considered. I have received several messages from His Holiness, telling me that he is praying for me.

O GLOBO: And the future?

Sarney: Brazil cannot be held back by the sterile populism that has delayed development so much in several Latin American countries. We must put an end to xenophobia. Brazil cannot have a policy of autarchy, isolated from the rest of the world, always in search of bombastic solutions.

Progress can only be acheived through investments, and we must have no prejudices. Brazil must be open to all markets and participate in all of them. A certain demagogic type of politics is being employed in the country, and this type of politics is delaying our development. Our transition to democracy should bring future progress to Brazil instead of hindering our progress. As I have already said, the president does not make the country. We must stop believing that the president is a miracle worker. It is the people who make the country, and the people should not be manipulated by an old-fashioned populism. Those who read Gorbachev and Zhao Ziang realize how much the world has changed. Ideologies are ceasing to exist. [passage omitted]

O GLOBO: You seem relieved now that the PMDB is not participating in the government decisions as much as it used to. Nonetheless, your cabinet still has a large number of PMDB ministers. How would you define your relationship with the PMDB and the other parties?

Sarney: The PMDB was not excluded from government decisions.

In a democratic government, which is supported by political and party agreements, it is natural for a majority party to have great participation in the administration of the country. PMDB members occupy nearly 90 percent of the federal administration positions.

Therefore, it would be an illusion to imagine that such a large number of administrative positions does not reflect PMDB participation in government decisions.

What cannot be discussed is the faithfulness of the president's advisers, who, in addition to skill, must also be able to strictly comply with the decisions that are made. In this field, the government has been exceedingly loyal to the PMDB. The same cannot be said, however, of several PMDB members who are occupying advisory positions in the government.

O GLOBO: There is a very special person in that position: Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes. Nowadays, he is very distant from you. He has greatly reduced his contacts with you. What do you think of the role that he is presently playing?

Sarney: Lately, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes has been dedicating most of his time to the Constituent Assembly process, which is entirely normal, in order to hasten the approval of the draft constitution. At the same time, the president of the Republic has also been very busy with administrative problems. The number of our meetings has thus been very much reduced. If we have disagreed on certain plans for the constitution, this is normal and healthy in a democratic and pluralist government. Besides, we have disagreed over very few points.

I am always ready to dedicate most of my efforts to obtaining a constitution that can really reflect the thoughts and yearnings of the Brazilian people. I am sure that Dr Ulysses Guimaraes, whose public spirit and great dedication to the democratic cause cannot be denied, is also pursuing the same goal. In addition to all that, Dr Guimaraes is a very dear friend of mine.

O GLOBO: Let us now talk about Rio de Janeiro. Governor Moreira Franco has been denying the rumor that he is being discriminated against because he supports a 4-year presidential term. The state administration, however, has been complaining that the Federal Savings Bank has been withholding the funds assigned to Rio de Janeiro State. Is Rio de Janeiro State experiencing these difficulties as a result of its governor's position regarding the presidential term?

Sarney: I have never discriminated against any state. This accusation, however, has been made frequently lately, whenever certain executives have to face problems that are difficult to resolve. Their reaction is to do nothing to resolve the problems but to look for a scapegoat. Unfortunately, there is no better scapegoat in Brazil now than the government, more specifically the federal government. [passage omitted]

Military Ministers Urged Sarney Statement

PY291311 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Feb 88 p 6a

[By Dalton Moreira]

[Text] Brasilia—Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, Navy Minister Admiral Henrique Saboia, and Air Force Minister Lieutenant Brigadier Otavio Julio Moreira Lima have urged President Jose Sarney to make the statement he included in his "Chatting by the Radio" program, which was broadcast yesterday morning. Last week, the three minister addressed the issue in separate routine meetings with the president. Only the Army minister read a draft of the president's speech beforehand, on Thursday morning.

The ministers suggested to the president that he is the only one responsible for the political crisis in the country, for two reasons: 1) he is not using his authority to the extent necessary; 2) he allows a "radical minority" to keep him under pressure with the specific objective of lowering the morale of his administration. They concluded that he should act more firmly against those who are attacking him.

During a meeting with Sarney on Wednesday, the Army minister analyzed the recent statements by Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, the president of the PMDB and the Constituent Assembly. The minister said that when Guimaraes said the members of the 1969 military junta were "three goofies," it was the first step in launching his candidacy for the Presidency.

Army Minister on Constituent Assembly

PY291351 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Feb 88 p 5

["Text" of interview with Armny Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves by unidentified reporter on 26 February—place not given]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Do you endorse the movement for President Sarney's right to a 6-year office term?

[Pires] Many experts on the constitution are saying that this right is unquestionable, because the country is still governed by the 1969 Constitution. So, that right is constitutionally guaranteed.

[Reporter] And the sovereignty of the Constituent Assembly?

[Pires] This is another problem being discussed by jurists. Some say the Constituent Assembly has no sovereignty, that it is but a secondary force. Let's leave those experts who deal with this question with more propriety to reach a conclusion. Taking Brazilian interests, I personally believe that elections in 1988 will be inappropriate. We need, above all, stability in this country.

[Reporter] What problems would elections this year cause, as the Navy and Aeronautics Ministers have said?

[Pires] The problems we saw in the last elections: The country comes to a standstill. We now need two things in this country: sweat and hard work.

[Reporter] Won't you support general elections this year, even if the Constituent Assembly approves a 4-year office term?

[Pires] Oh, yes. In that case, if we half do something wrong, let's go all the way. In that case we will not need to have elections in 1989 and again in 1990. If we do something wrong, let's do it all at one time.

[Reporter] Do you believe that elections are wrong?

[Pires] To hold elections in 1988 is wrong...only this, because elections are the most democratic practice. I am the staunchest defender of elections, because they reveal the will of the people.

[Reporter] Senator Jarbas Passarinho has raised the possibility of coup, and General Figueiredo has talked about a coup without generals. What can you tell us about this?

[Pires] Those are ideas with which I do not agree, but I recognize their right to voice their opinion.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, do you endorse the president's criticism of the Constituent Assembly?

[Pires] The president may have more information than I on which to base his criticism. I prefer not to talk about that criticism because I do not have the information the president may have. Do you know that the possession of this information depends on the level at which one is positioned, the level at which one has access? [passage omitted]

Chile

FRG Recalls Envoy Over Colonia Dignidad

PY291951 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1857 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 29 Feb (EFE)—FRG Ambassador to Chile Horst Kullak- Ublick today left for Bonn after being recalled by FRG Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

This information was confirmed by sources at the FRG Embassy. The sources added the ambassador left last night for an undetermined period of time.

The ambassador is going to report to his government on the case of the Colonia Dignidad settlement, which is a private colony in southern Chile that is under investigation by the German parliament for reports of torture and sexual crimes in that community.

The press attache of the FRG Embassy in Santiago, Andreas Kulig, said that the ambassador will remain in his country "for as long as the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires."

Recall Denied

PY010257 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Chilean Foreign Ministry is thoroughly investigating the situation of Colonia Dignidad, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Carlos Ducci said. Ducci also said the ministry has asked for legal data from the appropriate organizations.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman explained that FRG Ambassador Horst Kullak-Ublick left for his country for health reasons. Thus, rumors stating that the FRG ambassador had been recalled by his government to report on data on Colonia Dignidad were denied. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers' Statement on Border Rejected

PY261115 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Report by Maria Veronica Munoz from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has labelled as a risky precedent the statement that the Bolivian, Colombian, Ecuadoran, Peruvian, and Venezuelan foreign ministers made yesterday at the Andean Pact meeting in support of Bolivia's demands for a sea outlet. The official communique was released by Chilean Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Rucci.

The communique states that Chile rejects the foreign ministers' declaration because it concerns a purely bilateral issue. The Chilean-Bolivian border was definitively established in the peace, friendship, and trade treaty signed in 1904.

[Begin Rucci recording] There are no pending border problems between Chile and Bolivia, and under international law (?no) group of countries is entitled to pass judgment on the sovereign rights of a country over its own territory. [end recording]

The communique adds that countries do not depend on their geographic location to progress. Each country must seek its development through the appropriate use of its resources, peaceful international coexistence, and the sincere will to establish fruitful cooperation with other countries.

The communique says that Chile has provided Bolivia with broad facilities for a sea outlet and has repeatedly invited it to develop a process of mutual integration. The communique concludes by stating that it is a risky precedent for countries that are not affected by specific bilateral issues to make statements disregarding the historical and legal background, suggesting territorial concessions that they themselves would never offer.

Foreign Minister Comments on Plebiscite

PY271345 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2200 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia has affirmed that the Chilean institutional process is now better understood abroad. He added that every day the plebiscite is better understood to be a procedure in line with the fundamental principles on which Chileans will base their decisions for the future. As for the meeting of Chilean ambassadors that closed yesterday, the foreign minister said it was intended to bring the ambassadors up to date on the nation's current situation. Minister Garcia noted the ambassadors have been informed of concrete objectives the government is pursuing with determination.

[Begin Garcia recording] It can be clearly seen that the electoral registration offices are open and functioning. A year has gone by since the registration offices were opened, and more than 4 million Chilean citizens have registered. We now have a political parties law, and 14 organizations have been allowed to form as political parties. Anyone can see we have a political life, and the media can follow the political debate and the alternatives offered to the citizens. We have definite legislation that has been approved by the government junta, the implementation of which depends only on approval by the Constitutional Tribunal. All this is now a concrete reality, which any ambassador can invite any critic to come to Chile and appreciate. [end recording]

The foreign minister said anyone, at home or abroad, who denies the validity of the plebiscite does nothing but deny the sovereign destiny Chileans want for themselves.

[Begin Garcia recording] In that regard, we are highly sensitive and demand respect for our independence and sovereignty. We reject any foreign interference, because the decision is Chilean, made by Chileans, and the environment in which the decision is being made can be attested to by any reasonable observer. This is being recognized even by people who do not necessarily share the political views of the government. Even elements of the opposition are recognizing that all these factors make it possible for a free and sovereign decision to be adopted by Chileans. [end recording]

Minister Garcia added that the mechanism for the election of the president provided by the plebiscite is fully democratic and that it will bring to power a president supported by the absolute majority. This, Minister Garcia said, cannot be seen in other countries where presidents govern with little support. He added that the Chilean process toward democracy will be respected by the international community provided it is observed with objectivity.

Aylwin Denies PDC Members Linked to FPMR

PY270215 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Patricio Aylwin, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and leader of the Chilean opposition, has categorically denied that PDC members are linked with the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], an armed branch of the outlawed PCCh, which has allied itself with the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR].

Aylwin made the aforementioned statement during a regular meeting he held at PDC headquarters with political reporters. Reporters asked him about remarks made by subversive commander Jose Miguel in an interview published on page 6 of the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS on 10 January.

Jose Miguel, who is reportedly an FPMR leader, stated that the communists, members of the PDC, and all other opposition political parties comprise the FPMR. Aylwin responded:

[Begin Aylwin recording] I categorically reaffirm that neither PDC members nor any person closely related to the PDC is linked to any subversive group or with the FPMR. [end recording]

During his news conference, Aylwin emphasized statements he had made on other occasions. He stressed that the PDC is opposed to violence.

Aylwin's refusal is undoubtedly very praiseworthy. However, it is difficult to be sure when one is dealing with underground terrorist activities. Aylwin even called on the government to put an end to the climate of war and to create conditions that would allow the plebiscite process to take place in peace, freedom, and mutual respect, thus openly contradicting partners among the opposition.

[Begin Aylwin recording] We reject all types of violence, and we have told all political sectors that there is a way, a way which was agreed upon by an important group of political parties. [Words indistinct] therefore we believe they are defending vested interests. [end recording]

Opposition youth leaders who do not agree at all with the communist strategy, which seeks to gain access to power by controlling the opposition, said that Aylwin's anti-violence remarks are ambiguous because he has close or distant ties with Marxist terrorists.

The PDC, being a large party, is the leader of the opposition, comprised of the so-called democratic and Marxist parties. The Marxists belong to the United Left, which created the command against the fraud. This front is made up of communists and other subversives who reject both the plebiscite and the Constitution.

Aylwin pointed out that the government must abolish the state of exception following the examples of Spain, Germany, and Italy, which do not believe such measures are necessary to fight terrorism. But what Aylwin cannot understand is that terrorists in Chile not only set off bombs and kill innocent people, but that they have infiltrated opposition parties, making it difficult to attain unity and ask for a peaceful atmosphere for the plebiscite.

Aylwin reported that the Chilean Anticommunist Alliance, ACHA, which had already announced its disbandment, has been threatening PDC members Octavio Bruto and youth leader Christian Araya. Aylwin added that the ACHA has also threatened Cardinal Silva Henriquez and himself. In sum, Aylwin asked for peace and tranquillity and opposed violence, but he expressed support for the social mobilization advocated by the outlawed PCCh. [passage indistinct]

Calls for End to Violence

PY262059 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Patricio Aylwin, president of the Christian Democratic Party, urged President Pinochet and the members of the government junta to end the atmosphere of violence prevailing in the country.

Aylwin said: We demand the necessary conditions for this plebiscite process to develop in an atmosphere of peace, normalcy, mutual respect, equality, and freedom so every Chilean may accept the people's verdict.

The PDC president also said it is not legitimate for the high-ranking members of the Armed Forces and carabineros, in chosing the candidate for the next elections, to vote for themselves. He went on to say that if General Pinochet wants to be the candidate he must resign as commander in chief of the Army.

Aylwin began his news conference by referring to warnings made by Gen Pinochet and other government officials about possible acts of violence in coming months. Aylwin said that if the regime has concrete evidence of these alleged plans it should make them public. However, he noted that it is suspicious that this alleged campaign of agitation coincides with the eve of the expiration of the state of emergency and threat to domestic order.

[Aylwin] "We gain nothing with an atmosphere of violence. We are not interested in it, nor is it convenient for us. The only one who benefits from this atmosphere of violence is Gen Pinochet, who constantly justifies his determination to perpetuate himself in power as the only way of preventing chaos and violence in the country."

Aylwin stressed that there is no need to implement states of exception to repress terrorism and violence in the country. He added that nowhere in the world is the freedom of assembly, association, and information repressed in order to prevent acts of violence and that, therefore, the government is looking for an excuse to extend a state of emergency that will not guarantee free elections.

The PDC president then went on to say that the Armed Forces should be impartial in the upcoming plebiscite:

[Aylwin] "It is not legitimate for any of the commanders in chief or the director of the carabineros forces summoned to chose the plebiscite candidate to vote for themselves. I read in today's newspaper that the first lady of the nation proposes her husband. If Gen Pinochet wants to be the candidate he must start by resigning as commander in chief of the Army so another person may take his place as such to chose the candidate."

Patricio Aylwin then urged the government authorities to end the atmosphere of violence prevailing in the country and to guarantee an election that will be held in an atmosphere of peace and mutual respect.

[Aylwin] "I appeal to the government authorities, I appeal to Gen Pinochet, to the members of the government junta: Let us overcome the atmosphere of violence, let us create the necessary conditions for this plebiscite process to develop in an atmosphere of peace, normalcy, mutual respect, equality, and freedom. I am sure that if we do so—and this depends mainly on the government—all Chileans will accept the people's veredict. It is the government's turn to speak now."

Aylwin concluded the news conference by asserting that the government should appreciate the attitude of the democratic opposition parties to register as stipulated by the law currently in force and to participate in a plebiscite process with which it does not agree. He said that even some members of the United Left have adopted this attitude.

Envoy to Argentina on Ties, Cooperation

PY271234 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to Argentina Jorge Gaete said the Chilean diplomatic mission maintains excellent relations with the Argentine intelligence services, police, and Foreign Ministry. This relationship has nothing to do with the Chilean exiles who may have gone to the neighboring country.

I regret that some news media have misinterpreted my statements, and I think it is important to clarify the situation, he said. When I talked about the cooperation between the Argentine intelligence service and our diplomatic mission, I was not talking about the Chilean exiles in Argentina, he stated. He added that he was not

referring to the Chilean exiles, but that he was answering a question by denying that Argentina had turned into a center for operations of the Chilean exiles.

He explained that the matter he was specifically talking about when he mentioned the intelligence services was the possibility of terrorist attacks that groups of activists might carry out beginning in March.

Asked about ways to counteract this type of situation, Gaete said it is not necessary to take any measures because the prevailing opinion in Argentina is that these are only minor and insignificant groups.

Regarding the measures (?to prevent) other activities that might jeopardize the security of people and property at the embassy, Gaete said the relationship with the intelligence services is one of willing cooperation.

National Renewal Member Rejects Threats

PY271510 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Patricio Vildozola, member of the National Renewal Party, said the leaders and militants of his party will not be frightened by threats.

Vildozola was asked about letters he supposedly received from a so-called Shining Path National Command. He said: I have not received any letter from that organization, but I have received threats from other leftist organizations. He added: We are not concerned about that kind of threat because we are certain we are working for a just cause, which is the extension of President Augusto Pinochet's regime. [passage omitted]

Ecuador

President, Businessmen Meet on Economy

PA290033 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] While economic activities continued semiparalyzed and the dollar continued its unstoppable upward trend, both the Ecuadoran Government and private enterprise are seeking an emergency solution for the Ecuadoran economic crisis, which has become so serious that political instability is feared. President Febres-Cordero and his economic team met with leaders of production sectors in a long session, lasting until dawn on Thursday, to reach a consensus on solutions to a situation characterized by the rapid deterioration of all economic indicators. Private sector leaders promised to present, within 48 hours, a document with concrete alternatives to overcome the crisis and allow the resumption of paralyzed economic activities.

Meanwhile, the dollar's open market value, which has doubled in the last 8 months, has reached the unprecedented level of 400 sucres, with a 42-percent devaluation of the sucre occurring over 3 weeks. At the same time, monetary reserves have fallen to a mere $35 million, which has led to the suspension of the payment of the interest on the $9.5-billion foreign debt. Most banking operations have taken place at a low level, while many commercial transactions have been made in dollars because of a notorious loss of confidence in the local currency.

The economic paralyzation again produced social unrest manifested in violent street demonstrations that affected Quito for several days and are slowly extending to other Ecuadoran cities. The Sole Workers Front [FUT] confirmed it will soon hold a general strike against the Conservative regime's economic policy, especially because of its effect on the average inflation rate, which already surpasses 35 percent a year. FUT, which includes three large labor unions, announced major worker, peasant, and student demonstrations as preparation for the strike. As of Friday night, at least 40 people, mostly students, had been arrested in this week's street incidents, which turned into heavy clashes with the police.

However, rumors about unrest within the leadership of the military forces with the alleged possibility of a coup d'etat have decreased rapidly, but the political situation remains unstable and uncertain, at the same time as runoff electoral campaigns are about to begin between Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja and populist Abdala Bucaram.

Auto Import Ban, Other Measures Enacted

PA261523 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government is suffering from a critical lack of foreign exchange so it has begun to discard its neo-liberal economic policy by banning auto imports and increasing the amounts and deadlines of advance deposits for foreign purchases. The measures, adopted during an unexpected Monetary Board meeting, were approved at a time when Ecuador has suspended payment on its foreign debt interest because it lacks the necessary foreign exchange.

Meanwhile, the dollar's exchange rate has skyrocketed an average 3 percent a day on the free market. Likewise, monetary reserves recently dropped below the $40-million mark, the lowest amount since 1971. The ban on vehicle imports, vetoed by private sector representatives, was reportedly approved to reduce the demand for dollars and lessen the pressure on the foreign exchange free market.

The Monetary Board decided to implement this measure 1 day after President Leon Febres-Cordero's regime announced that it would not try to cut the dollar's exchange rate to prevent the capital drain recently unleashed due to our country's political instability.

Briefs

1987 Oil Discoveries

Quito, 22 Feb (AFP)—The Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation (CEPE) reported that in 1987, the transnational oil companies operating in Ecuador discovered crude reserves amounting to 150 million barrels. CEPE said: "Up to the end of 1987, $110 million has been invested out of $400 million allocated, most of which is for underground, exploratory work." CEPE added: "Eleven wells have been drilled, out of which four have yielded results—a 36-percent success rate, which corresponds to 20 percent of the wells being explored." According to CEPE, these figures surpass the trend of the last 20 years and surpass world averages by more than 50 percent, which amounts to a 100-percent success rate in the exploratory stage. The transnational companies operating in Ecuador, under the usual practice of lending service with risk capital, estimate they will discover some 2 billion barrels of oil by the end of 1991. [Text] *[Paris AFP in Spanish 1308 GMT 22 Feb 88 PA]*

Paraguay

Laino Says Stroessner Lost U.S. Support

PY261424 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Feb 88 p 11

[Text] Domingo Laino, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) in Paraguay, yesterday said in Brasilia that the U.S. Government no longer supports the 33-year-long Stroessner regime. Laino participated in the International Seminar on Institutional Experience and Political Prospects in Latin American Countries, which was organized by the Tancredo Neves Institute of the PFL, which was also attended by Jorge Brizan, president of the National Democratic Congress on the Caribbean island of Grenada.

In his 20-minute lecture Laino referred to the 14 February elections in Paraguay when Stroessner was elected for the seventh time by an 89-percent majority, in what he called "make-believe elections." He also said that "the U.S. State Department has a commitment" to intensify international pressures on the Paraguayan Governemnt.

About a week before the elections, the PLRA president met in Washington with Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and, as he told FOLHA, he was told by the U.S. official that the U.S. Government condemned the electoral process conducted by Stroessner. Abrams reportedly told Laino that "the Paraguayan elections do not elicit our enthusiasm." While in Washington, Laino and Abrams participated in a television debate in Spanish directed at the Latin community. There, Abrams branded the Stroessner government as a "military dictatorship." With obvious enthusiasm, Laino yesterday said that "this as the first time a U.S. Government official has publicly referred to the Stroessner government in this manner."

In Laino's opinion, the new position of the U.S. Government is "the most auspicious news in recent years for the Paraguayan opposition. As he assesses it, the firm condemnation of Stroessner by the United States has this explanation: "The U.S. Government emphatically supports a democratic transition in Paraguay because the extreme left, the Communist Party specifically, is weak—a situation quite different from that in Chile, where the Communist Party is strong."

In addition to Laino and Brizan, representatives of "liberal" parties from Chile, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Haiti should have participated in the Tancredo Neves Institute seminar, but they did not arrive in Brasilia on time. The seminar continues today with a meeting of participants with members of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and another meeting of PFL congressmen with UNB [Brasilia National University] professors and students.

Febrerista on Defense Minister, Taylor Remarks

PY261359 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 26 Feb 88 p 9

[Excerpt] Dr Ricardo Lugo Rodriguez, who is a member of the National Executive Committee of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, said that the speech made by Defense Minister General Gaspar German Martinez at the Colorado Party Executive Board session on Wednesday "is another indication that Paraguayan democratic institutions do not work."

The politician justified his opinion by the fact that the Armed Forces, "as is established in their organic law, cannot engage in political activities. The Army must be a national army, and, obviously, a national army should not support a party and should not express its satisfaction over the election of a candidate of a ruling party."

Lugo Rodriguez said the statement by Clyde Taylor, U.S. ambassador to Paraguay, on the situation in our country does not mean "in some way or another" interference in Paraguayan domestic affairs "because he (Taylor) is here to represent and inform his country and the national and international public about what he sees and observes in a country like ours." [passage omitted]

PDC Leader on U.S. Ambassador Comments

PY270110 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 26 Feb 88 p 9

[Text] Jose Maria Bonin, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and current head of the "National Accord," said that U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor told the international press several truths regarding Paraguay's political reality. He added, however, that he does not agree with everything the ambassador said.

Bonin said he disagrees with Taylor "when he administers, or divides the blame between the government—because it did not do what it should—and the opposition—because it did not test the government's will to democratize the country."

Bonin said he thinks "the responsibility lies exclusively with the government because governments are the administrators of the common good of peoples. The initiative has to come from the government, the initiative and the implementation of what is convenient for the common good of the country."

"The democratization of Paraguay is undoubtedly a desired common good in that sense, and the state is responsible for creating the appropriate conditions," Bonin stressed.

He added that "here the government has done absolutely nothing. It simply held on to its system of regular, or pleasing, political parties, which are the usual outgrowth of dictatorships. The irregular political parties are kept aside because they constitute the true democratic opposition."

Bonin said that under such conditions "the country's democratic opposition cannot do anything more than it did in this election: report on the great fraud of 14 February's elections."

"I do not agree with Ambassador Taylor on these issues," Bonin reiterated.

"The blame cannot be shared because the responsibility clearly lies with the government. The government has the largest share, I would say, the exclusive responsibility of organizing the path toward democracy," Bonin said.

Bonin recalled that Ambassador Taylor told the foreign press something very important. He said the government actually cooperates with the opposition because of its reactions and repressive nature. He gave an example: Just when Washington was discussing tariff preferences, the government unleashed "raids" against some trade unions here. This made a decision on U.S. sanctions regarding preferences easier.

Peru

Garcia Comments on Panamanian Situation

Will Not Break Ties

PA291928 Paris AFP in Spanish 1655 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Lima, 29 Feb (AFP)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia has said his country will not break diplomatic relations with Panama following his decision to recall the Peruvian ambassador to Panama, criticize U.S. intervention, and demand elections to resolve the crisis in Panama.

"We cannot break relations with a sister nation. That would be against our principles," Garcia said in a statement published today.

Peruvian Ambassador Javier Ortiz de Zevallos "has been immediately recalled. He will arrive and remain here until things become clear," he added.

Garcia also expressed his hope that "recent irregularities will be resolved through immediate elections in which the Panamanian people will participate."

Garcia added: "Our position is to not recognize either government; our position is to state that governments should only emerge through elections."

In a telephone interview broadcast by a radio station in Lima, Ortiz de Zevallos said he will be leaving for Lima tonight in response to a call from his government. However, he added that his summoning should not be considered as a withdrawal of the Peruvian ambassador to Panama.

Garcia said the ambassador was summoned "to hear personally and directly his evaluation of the current situation in that country. In addition, this action shows that when we met in Acapulco with eight countries, including Panama, we committed ourselves to democracy and to the people's participation."

"What is happening in that country has nothing to do with the people's participation," Garcia said in recalling the agreement signed at the presidential summit in Mexico at the end of 1987.

Regarding the United States, Garcia said his government is not under pressure or influence from that nation. "What I have said is that the United Stattes should deliver the canal to Panama as soon as possible."

In commenting on the Panamanian situation, Garcia said the UN, the OAS, and various countries "are discussing who is the real Panamanian president, representative, or ambassador: the government of President (Eric) Delvalle—also born in abnormal circumstances—or the new government that has allegedly been formed."

Garcia said he does not feel his position is meddling in Panamanian affairs. He stressed that "Latin America will only become united when it is fully democratic, when its peoples decide their destiny."

"As long as there are interventions, military interruptions, and de facto coups d'etat, Latin America will not have democratic continuity and its peoples will be doomed to inferiority and civic subordination," he said.

"Some might say this is meddling in domestic affairs. That is not true. It is not possible...we are a great nation and therefore we have a right to express our position loud and clear," he added.

Garcia advocated "elections in Panama and in all of Latin America, so the people can participate and so governments can legitimately represent the national will."

Talks to Solis

PA010344 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0157 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by President Alan Garcia; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] This morning I talked with Manuel Solis Palma, the president designate in Panama. I called him over the telephone, as we are brother countries. As a Latin American, I told him in all sincerity and honesty Peru's view. We feel there have been a series of abnormal circumstances in Panama for quite a while. One president was elected—he left in a difficult situation—and he was replaced by a new president, who is now replaced by a third one.

We feel this is setting aside all basic norms of democracy that call for the people to elect their government, to elect their rulers. We do not think the situation calls for supporting one or another person, but to go into the democratic depth of the whole issue. Only the people can choose their rulers, through universal and secret votes.

President-designate Solis Palma agreed that he felt that way, and that they were planning to call for elections and reestablish the system of freedom, particularly the freedom of the press.

I wish to clearly state the following: We are not the only ones criticizing this situation. There is another type of criticism involved. I had clearly stated at the Segura Theater that we must differentiate between this Latin American criticism—which is a democratic self-criticism and the defense of the right of the people to elect their government—and the interest of a large power that has an enclave within Panama, controlling the canal.

That large power is exerting pressure and influence on Panama's political life. We do not believe the United States has anything to say about the Panamanian Government. We Latin Americans must give our fraternal opinion. If it wants to help Panama, the only thing the United States can do is return the canal as soon as possible and return Panamanian and Latin American sovereignty to that piece of our continent.

That is what I told the president designate, Solis Palma. I am sure that regardless of the factors involved, the will of the Panamanian people will prevail in the long run. I trust the Panamanian people, who probably listen to us, will know that we defend them at these moments, support them, and defend their freedom.

Venezuela

Envoy to Panama Recalled for Consultations

PA010215 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Venezuelan Government has reiterated its position on the Panamanian situation, stating that it is essential that the democratic process be preserved in that country. Acting Foreign Minister Horacio Arteaga said that Faustino Pulgar Gruber, Venezuelan ambassador to Panama, has been recalled to directly consult with him about the events in Panama because he can make a more in-depth analysis that can help Venezuela adopt the appropriate decisions.

[Begin recording] [Arteaga] I cannot tell you what those decisions will be, because we are still evaluating the changing situation. However, with the presence of our ambassador here, we hope to have more facts to formulate our position in the next few days. [end recording]

Suriname

Bouterse Delivers Speech on Revolution Day

FL262017 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] There are individuals and organizations who in their lifetime are bent on fighting against the revolution. I have time and patience with these people, but still I have problems with the methods they use. These methods are aimed at provoking and harassing the military. This message was delivered by Commander Bouterse yesterday during his speech on the occasion of the day of the revolution.

He called on the authorities in Suriname to intervene at the right moment. According to the leader of the revolution, the people who fight against the revolution (?foment spirits) which they possibly cannot exorcise. They are said to be respected citizens, but because of their loyalty to foreign countries, and because of the fact that they have other bosses than the Surinamese people, the people will scorn them, said Bouterse.